

CANAL PROJECTS

SHANZHAI LYRIC

CANAL STREET
RESEARCH
ASSOCIATION

9/29/22-4/23/23

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[library residency]

Canal Projects is happy to host Canal Street Research Association, the fictional office of poetic research unit Shanzhai Lyric, for its inaugural library residency. Led by the artists Ming Lin and Alexandra Tatarsky, Canal Street Research Association is a nomadic project that operates out of underutilized Canal Street real estate, including vacant storefronts and office buildings.

Established in 2015, **Shanzhai Lyric** investigates global trade networks, informal markets, and the poetics of counterfeit goods. 山寨, or “shanzhai,” means “counterfeit” in contemporary Chinese usage, but translates literally to “mountain hamlet.” This makes reference to an enclave on the outskirts of empire where bandits abscond with goods to be redistributed among those on the margins. In 2020, Shanzhai Lyric founded Canal Street Research Association in an empty storefront on Canal Street, New York City’s counterfeit epicenter, using this site as a base from which to delve into the cultural and material ecologies of the street and its long history as a place that probes the limits of authorship and ownership.

Taking cues from Canal Projects’ restored “illuminated walkways” above the lower level library—the glass and cast-iron sidewalks designed in the early twentieth century to provide light to basement workers—Canal Street

Research Association will explore the literal and metaphoric undercurrents of Canal Street, from basement factories, to counterfeit warehousing and escape routes, to the massage parlors and covert nightlife enabled by the clandestine activities of the street.

During their residency they will continue to build a living memory bank of the district through a constellation of hyperlocal stories, memories, and objects. In the library’s bookshelves, the artists are showcasing an assortment of books and objects that speak to the history of Canal Street and its vendor culture. Library furniture, designed in collaboration with Lars Fischer of common room, invites visitors to participate in informal conversation.

From October 2022 to April 2023, Canal Street Research Association will also play host to a series of screenings and public talks, alongside office hours with the artists by appointment. The library is open for viewing and consultation by visitors during Canal Projects’ regular hours of operation (Tuesday through Saturday, 12–6 pm). Public-facing programs organized by Canal Street Research Association will address the currents of water, waste, and labor that underpin the long history and rich culture of Canal Street in both its ground and underground levels.

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More research notes can be found
[@canal_street_research](https://twitter.com/canal_street_research)

坚尼街研究小组

[图书馆驻留]

运河项目很荣幸能够接待由艺术家Ming Lin和Alexandra Tatarsky组织运营的艺术小组「坚尼街研究小组」作为其首届图书馆驻留成员。

「坚尼街研究小组」是诗学研究团体「山寨歌词」的虚拟办公室，ta们也是一个拓扑于坚尼街边闲置铺面和办公楼之间的游牧项目。「山寨歌词」成立于2015年，侧重于调查和研究全球贸易网络、非常规化的市场和诗学化的山寨商品。山寨(ShanZhai)在当代中文语境里指“假货”，字面意义是“山上的寨子”。大概影射着一块驰骋于帝国之外的飞地，在那山贼们走私商品而后重新分配给有需之人，边缘之人。

2020年，「山寨歌词」在坚尼街这个纽约最大的假货买卖地寻觅了一间临街的空店面，在那成立了「坚尼街研究小组」。自此以这儿为基地，深入研究和探索运河街的文化物质生态，及其如何作为一个推敲版权和所有权限度的历史性场域。长久以来，身份、阶级、秩序、真实性和劳动力都在这里在不停地被僭越，又不停地被流通。

以运河项目地下图书馆上方所修复的“照明人行道”（二十世纪初为地下室工人提供照明而设计的玻璃铸铁人行道）为线索，「坚尼街研究小组」旨在挖掘坚尼街的地下暗涌，从地下加工厂、假货仓库，到走私和藏匿的密道，再到按摩客厅等等。这条街历来翻腾和折叠着无数鲜为人知的地下活动和隐秘生活。

在驻留期间，「坚尼街研究小组」还会持续建立由一系列超本地故事、记忆和物件组成的，一个鲜活的、属于该街区的记忆银行。图书馆里陈列的书籍和物品，都在审视和讲述着坚尼街的摊贩文

化历史；图书馆那些与Lars Fischer of common room合作设计的家具，也默默邀约来访的客人参与到这一场非正式的对话中来。

从2022年10月到2023年4月，「坚尼街研究小组」陆续会举办一系列公共讲座和放映活动，还会给公众创造和驻留艺术家们进行一对一深入交流和对话的机会。公众活动的主题主要会涉及到水、废品和劳动力资源——这些在地下和地表上支撑着运河街悠久历史和丰富文化的要素。「运河项目」及其图书馆的营业时间为每周二至周六，中午12点至下午6点，届时欢迎访客的参观和垂询。

翻译/李骄阳

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更多研究笔记可以在Instagram @ canal_street_research 上找到

