

## Candy-Inspired Tables, an Archive of NYC Water, and More Design Finds

By Diana Budds, July 29, 2022

An Archive of New York City Water at SculptureCenter



Photo: Charles Benton

In *Drawing a Line Backwards*, an archive of water samples and a book, artist Marco Barrera alludes to the central role that taming the substance plays in New York City's development, from covering up ponds to filling in creeks and directing rain into storm drains. The piece is part of in "[In Practice: Literally Means Collapse](#)," a SculptureCenter exhibition curated by Camila Palomino that focuses on physical and social infrastructure. For years, Barrera has collected and bottled water samples from mundane and historically significant locations like a Vermont quarry that provided decorative stone for the city's municipal buildings, a Catskills reservoir that supplies the city's drinking water, and various public fountains. Over time, the samples — stored in assorted jugs, jars, and spice bottles — have turned various shades of yellow, pink, and green due to the organic matter present in the sources. The color shifting makes the artist's point: Even as we seek to corral and exploit natural resources, we can't fully control them (on view through August 1).