



OGDEN MUSEUM
OF SOUTHERN ART

Movement Mondays: Louisiana Coastline Assemblage for Indigenous Peoples' Day



Kael Alford, *Flooding on Island Road looking toward Isle de Jean Charles*
2008, Archival Pigment Print, Gift of Edwin Robinson, 2018.11.16

Recreate the Louisiana coastline with elements of nature!

For seven years, the artist **Kael Alford** photographed two small communities impacted by **coastal erosion**, global warming and the BP oil spill in Louisiana, the Pointe-aux-Chenes and Isle de Jean Charles. Alford's ancestry can be traced to the native tribes of the region through her maternal grandmother. Her work compassionately tells the story of the people and environments of South Louisiana - the front line of America's struggle with coastal land loss and climate change.

These communities are home to more than 1,500 people, who are descendants of Native American tribes and French settlers. As this region is becoming increasingly uninhabitable, due to coastal erosion and climate change, the Pointe-aux-Chenes and Isle de Jean Charles communities are the nation's first climate refugees.

QUESTIONS? EMAIL

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Supplies

Found objects

Instructions

Step 1: With the permission of a parent or guardian, head outside and start gathering! If you're not able to go for a walk in your neighborhood or backyard, explore your house. What is the environment like on the coast? Find things in nature to use to build the coastline. For example, you can gather rocks, leaves, flowers, little branches...

Let's take care of our environment and the plants and animals that we share it with. When collecting materials for your artwork, be sure to be mindful of the plants that you might be collecting leaves, branches or flowers from. Take only what you need and be careful not to damage the plant.

Step 2: With the help of the internet and books, try to name all of your **found objects**. For example, what is the name of the tree that the leaf or flower that you collected comes from? Try to identify at least one thing that is **native** to Louisiana.

Step 3: Use the template of Louisiana provided on the next page as a guide or use your imagination to recreate the coastline yourself.

Step 4: Place your found objects in front of you. Arrange your objects to follow the Louisiana coastline. Try to create a **pattern** with the objects as you line the coast.

Step 5: When you are done with your **assemblage** take a picture to share with your friends and family. Be sure to put your found objects back where you found them.

Vocabulary

Pattern: A pattern is a design in which lines, shapes, forms or colours are repeated.

Native: a person, plant or animal of indigenous origin or growth

Found Object: a thing that someone else has given or thrown away that is often repurposed by artists

Assemblage: a work of art made by grouping found or unrelated objects together

Coastal Erosion: is the loss or displacement of land, or the long-term removal of sediment and rocks along the coastline due to the action of waves, currents, tides, wind-driven water, waterborne ice, or other impacts of storms.



