



**O-riginal Art Activities:  
Community Storytelling through  
Murals Inspired by Michael Frolich**



Michael Frolich, *Swamp Scene*, Courtesy of Eric Broyard/ Saturn Bar

**Michael Frolich** is an artist who decorated the walls of bars with surreal landscapes, in areas where he was a resident. Frolich shows a range of styles inspired by his life and fantasies. Frolich's paintings are most recognizable filling the walls of bars in the Lower 9th Ward, notably the Saturn Bar on St. Claude Ave.

**Create a draft for your mural idea from the previous Movement Monday Activity.**

**SEE MICHAEL FROLICH'S ARTWORK IN THE PERMANENT ART COLLECTION AT OGDEN MUSEUM.**

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QUESTIONS? EMAIL  
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**Vocabulary**

**Mural** — a painting or other work of art executed directly on a wall

**Narrative** — a spoken or written account of connected events; a story

**Symbol** - an object or concept that represents, stands for or suggests another idea, visual image, belief or action

**Supplies**

Paper, Watercolor paint, Pencil, Brush.

**Instructions**

**Step 1:** This activity will build on the community mural idea from the Movement Monday Activity. Look at Michael Frolich's **mural painting**. What do you notice about it? He uses subtle, solid colors in his mural. He is expressing his narrative of the community he lived in. How will you tell the story of your community?

**Step 2:** Grab a piece of paper and use a pencil to draw out your ideas and images that you came up with from Monday's activity. Do you want to draw a landscape, add buildings, or people? Notice that Michael used thin lines to indicate the branches and trees and emphasize the swamp. In Michael's mural he used the landscape of the swamp to talk about his community.

**Step 3:** The background of Frolich portrait is red. Pick a color that you want to use for the background of your mural. Decide if you want to create a subtle mural like Michael or a bright, colorful mural? Once you have decided your background color. Use the brush, water and watercolor paint to fill in the background. Dip the brush in the water, wipe the excess water on the edge of the cup then put the brush in the color. Remember to lightly brush the color on your paper and not to use too much water.

**Step 4:** Michael added little details to his portrait. Notice that the river has yellow and a light green tone. There are a few white birds in the corner of the mural that add light. Use your materials to add details to your mural sketch.

**Step 5:** Michael created a **symbol** of his community in his artwork. What does your mural symbolize? Show your mural sketch to your friends and family. What do they think it symbolizes?

