



OGDEN MUSEUM
OF SOUTHERN ART

O-riginal Art Activities: River Paths Watercolor Inspired by Kael Alford



Kael Alford, *Flooding on Island Road, Looking Toward Isle de Jean Charles*, 2008, Archival pigment print

Kael Alford's *Bottom of Da Boot* documents the South Louisiana communities most affected by land loss due to the oil industry and climate change. The more than 1,500 residents of Point-aux-Chenes and Isle de Jean Charles are a mix of native tribes, French and American settlers. 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.

Learn about the history of the Mississippi River while creating an abstract watercolor.

Supplies List:

Template, Washable Markers, Black Sharpie, Paintbrush, Cup for water, Napkins

Instructions

Step 1: Study an image of the river paths throughout history. Notice how the river path changes over time.

Step 2: Where would the river turn if there were no levees? Use a permanent marker to draw river paths on the template of Louisiana.

Step 3: Use washable makers to color the river paths. You don't have to color in all of the white space perfectly. In the next step we will use water to fill in the rest of the space. Next, color in the Louisiana state shape and background if you want.

Step 4: Use water and a paintbrush to "paint" over the river paths and see how the marker bleeds with the water making a watercolor painting. Be sure to lightly dip the brush in the water then wipe the brush off on the edge of the cup to lessen the amount of water you use. Remember to clean the brush in the water when changing to another color.

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