

Lynn Benson has devoted most of her artistic career to studying how human activity affects a vitally important resource: water. In a range of mediums, she represents bodies of water at the center of environmental and political struggles. The Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art and The Volland Store Gallery are collaborating to offer two exhibitions in the region featuring Benson's work: the first opening in February 2018 at the Beach Museum of Art, the second going up in May 2018 at The Volland Store.

"Water Stories by Lynn Benson" unveils a new acquisition by the Beach Museum of Art, a suite of 101 drawings on paper vellum called *Waterplaces*. To create her compositions, Benson draws from geographical views provided by satellite and printed maps. Each drawing is mounted on a paper vellum frame constructed by her. A collection of texts written by the artist accompanies the suite of drawings, and describes how a particular body of water has been affected by a human event. Also included in the exhibition is *Drops*, a more recent series in which drawings replace culture specimens in petri dishes.

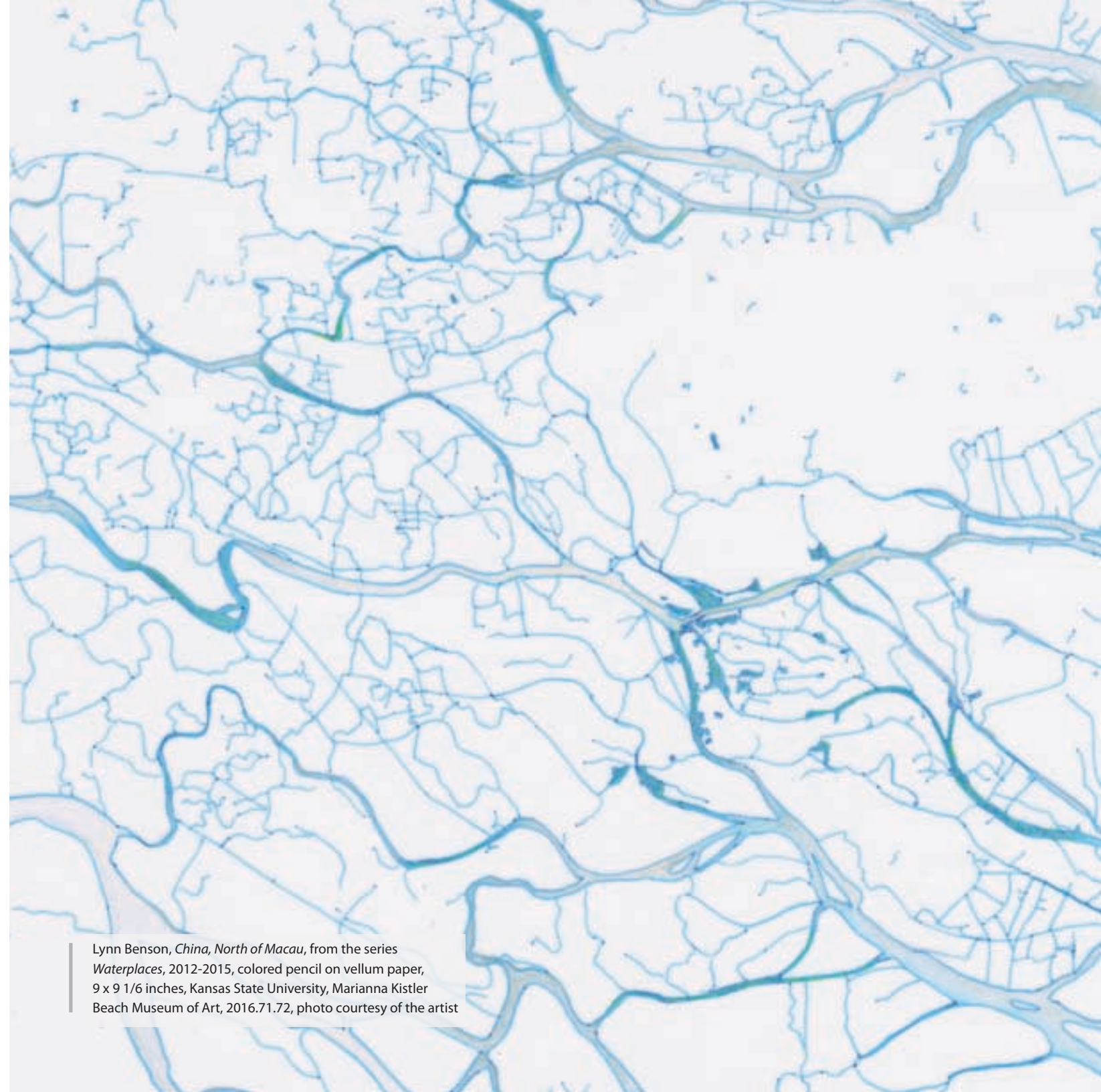
In both bodies of work, the artist's choice to use the properties of paper vellum — with its inherent translucence and brittle texture — creates the effect of a delicate, fragile skin on which water rests. The colors' richness imparts a jewel-like quality to the artworks, emphasizing water's preciousness. Remarking on the purpose of her work, Benson says that she wants "to be a part of the conversation as we face enormous change and challenges on a global scale related to our waters."

This exhibition also presents the artist's 2018 Friends of the Beach Museum of Art Gift Print, *Dancing on the Table*. This work reflects Benson's interest in water sources that flow under the ground, such as the Ogallala Aquifer in western Kansas and surrounding states. The Ogallala has enabled farmers in the Great Plains to produce one-fifth of the total annual U.S. agricultural harvest, but decades of overuse are now causing a significant reduction in the aquifer's water level. Benson brings attention to this natural treasure through her print, with gold leaf and coloring applied by hand.

Aileen June Wang, Curator

Cover image: Lynn Benson, *Ganges Delta*, from the series *Waterplaces*, 2012-2015, colored pencil on vellum paper, 9 x 9 in., Kansas State University, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, 2016.71.63, photo courtesy of the artist.

Lynn Benson, *China, North of Macau*, from the series *Waterplaces*, 2012-2015, colored pencil on vellum paper, 9 x 9 1/6 inches, Kansas State University, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, 2016.71.72, photo courtesy of the artist





Lynn Benson, *Hudson River at Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant; Missouri & Kansas Rivers at Kansas City; Amazon River Delta, Brazil, details, from the series Drops in Petri Dishes*, 2016-2017, glass, acrylic, vellum paper, colored pencil, ink, 4 x 4 x ¾ in., collection of the artist.

Related Events

At the Beach Museum of Art

Telling Water's Story: Art, Science, and Narrative, featuring Cynthia Barnett, Peter Dorhout, and Lynn Benson
Thursday, March 8, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

Presentation by journalist and author Cynthia Barnett, followed by a conversation on how the visual arts, scientific practice, and journalism intersect in tackling environmental challenges. Panelists include K-State Vice President for Research and professor of Chemistry Peter Dorhout and 2018 Gift Print artist Lynn Benson. Moderated by Beach Museum of Art Director Linda Duke. In partnership with K-State Libraries, the Collegian Media Group, Global Foods Systems Initiative, and Prairie Studies Initiative.

Artist Talk by Lynn Benson

Thursday, April 5, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

Artist Lynn Benson will share details about making the 2018 Beach Museum of Art Gift Print and other recent projects. Light refreshments served.

Water Stories School Tour

Students will investigate works from the Beach Museum of Art permanent collection related to water by various artists, including Lynn Benson, Herschel Logan, and photographer Jim Richardson. Students will think about Kansas water issues and the environment, and learn more about Kansas waterways above and below ground. Discussions will address environmental science standard K-ESS3.

At The Volland Store Gallery, 24098 Volland Road, Alma, Kansas

Telling Water's Story: Art, Science, and Narrative

Saturday, March 10, 2018, 1 p.m.

Presentation by journalist and author Cynthia Barnett, followed by a conversation with Jeff Davidson, K-State watershed specialist. Sign up for a pre-event lunch with the speakers on the "Happenings" page at <http://thevollandstore.com/>, or call 785-499-3616.

River Compositions by Lynn Benson

May 5-July 15, 2018

Exhibition of new works by Lynn Benson.

Open Saturdays and Sundays, Noon-5 p.m., and by appointment.

Curator's talk by Aileen June Wang on the art of Lynn Benson

May 20, 2018, 2 p.m.



Lynn Benson, *Kansas City 1951*,
from the series *Waterplaces*, 2012-
2015, colored pencil on vellum
paper, 8 15/16 x 9 1/16 in., Kansas
State University, Marianna Kistler
Beach Museum of Art, 2016.71.3.

Artist's Statement

I am drawn to forces within the natural world and I watch how we humans perceive and impact these delicate balances. My subject matter is within that dynamic realm. Working with paint, printmaking, fabric, collage, photography, installation, and more, I look for core essences and universals, surprises, fragility, and reverence, in balance with specific issues surfacing in this politically and environmentally challenged world we inhabit.

My current work relates to world water. The amazing meandering lines captured by satellite view of rivers and shorelines provide inspiration for many of my recent works. I play upon the botanical and anatomical similarities in paths of fluids and patterns of growth, relishing opportunities to push paint through layers while exploring fluid dynamics in liquid media. Whether oceans, river deltas, and aquifers, or atmosphere, drought, and rain, my longtime attraction to and interest in water is rooted in proximity to the ocean as a toddler, and awareness of the burning Cuyahoga River in the late 1960s (in part leading to the federal Clean Water Act in 1972). Then there's the long-ago overheard conversation between my father and uncle, both chemical engineers, regarding pollution in the San Francisco Bay from my uncle's chemical plant!

It is impossible to ignore the crucial role that water will play in our future. I want to be a part of the conversation as we face enormous change and challenges on a global scale related to our waters.

Lynn Benson

Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art

Water Stories by Lynn Benson

*2018 Friends of the
Beach Museum of Art
Gift Print Artist*

February 13-May 26,
2018, Ruth Ann Wefald
Gallery

The Volland Store Gallery

River Compositions by Lynn Benson

May 5-July 15, 2018



< **2018 Friends of the Beach Museum of Art Gift Print**
Unique details added by hand to each print cannot be conveyed in reproduction. Stop by the museum to choose yours!

Lynn Benson, *Dancing on the Table*, detail, 2017, lithograph with chine collé, gold leaf, and hand drawing, edition of 13, 10 3/4 x 10 15/16 in., Bedrock Art Editions, 2018 Friends of the Beach Museum of Art Gift Print, photo courtesy of the artist.

Friends of the Beach Museum of Art Gift Print

The Friends of the Beach Museum of Art, or FOBMA, commissions a limited-edition print by a recognized Kansas artist for sale to Friends and the public each year. Kansas State University's "Friends of Art" started the gift print program in 1934.

Lynn Benson produced this year's gift print, *Dancing on the Table*, in collaboration with master printer Aaron Shipps at Bedrock Art Editions in Kansas City. Each print is composed of seven layers of paper and incorporates several artistic processes: lithography, chine collé, hand-coloring with colored pencil, gold leaf application, and papercutting.

For more information about becoming a FOBMA member or purchasing a gift print, call 785-532-7718 or go to beach.k-state.edu.

MARIANNA KISTLER
BEACH
MUSEUM OF ART

FREE admission and parking
14th & Anderson, Manhattan, KS
785.532.7718 | beach.k-state.edu
Tues., Wed., Fri. 10-5 | Thurs. 10-8 | Sat. 11-4

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