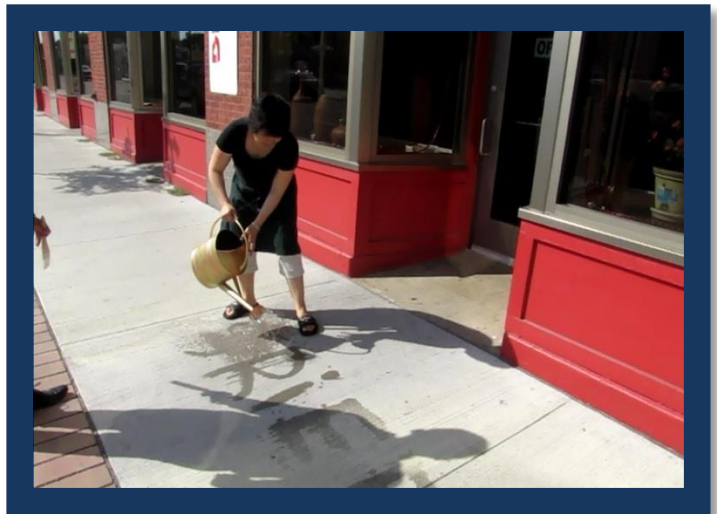


River-Wash at Little Mekong: Selected Views

Jonee Kulman Brigham

October 13 - November 24, 2013 Corridor Gallery
Reception Sunday, October 20, 12-2 pm
White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church
328 Maple Street, Mahtomedi, MN 55115

This exhibit gives a glimpse into a larger, simultaneous exhibit at the site of a current public art project in Little Mekong Business and Cultural District along University Avenue between Mackubin and Galtier Streets in St. Paul. "River-Wash at Little Mekong" engages the people behind storefronts with the stormwater below the street — connecting Little Mekong to the Mississippi River. Participating business owners display a poster in their storefront showing an encounter where they mark a watering can and water-paint the sidewalk to answer two questions: "What do you want to flow in to this place?" and "What do you want to wash away?" Then, washing the sidewalk, their hopes and concerns flow into the storm drain, to water trees and be carried by the river, a healing symbol. In turn, the human role in river health is



expressed by marking storm drains with the St. Paul stormwater stencil. Artist, Jonee Kulman Brigham of Full Spring Studio, collaborated with Friends of the Mississippi River, Asian Economic Development Association, and the City of St. Paul. The project is supported by Irrigate.

Learn more at river-wash.blogspot.com and visit Little Mekong to look behind the storefronts yourself for a Thai lunch, hairstyling, car repair, or manicure and support small businesses recovering from construction.

As an artist at Full Spring Studio, I create studio and public art that explores stories of connection and flow. Through artist's books and public art I use narrative or a sequence of events and often mix words and poetry with images or - in the case of public art - participatory actions. I am particularly interested in the storytelling potential of infrastructure to reveal how our daily lives are interconnected with nature — whether from a sink through pipes to the river, or from a light switch through power lines and power plants to the sky. In River-Wash at Little Mekong, I use the storm drains as a "portal" to the river, as part of a ritual-like activity of healing, in hopes that bonds formed with the Mississippi will inspire its stewardship.



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