



My public art plays with the balance of form and sequential experience. Form-based projects, like Children's Nest Egg, stand alone as a sculpture but suggest a designed experience. In Downstream/Upstream the forms are in a supporting role—some as props used in a journey, and some as mementos of a shared experience. Most recently, River-Wash at Little Mekong records many individual experiences of a “river-wash” in the form of posters in a business and cultural district in St. Paul, MN.

## River-Wash at Little Mekong [Link to Website](#)



River-Wash at Little Mekong was on display starting September 15 through November 15, 2013 in the Little Mekong business and cultural district in St. Paul, MN along University Avenue between Mackubin and Galtier streets. The project explored a sense of place in Little Mekong, by looking behind its surfaces -- inviting visitors to see the people behind the storefronts and the water below the street that connects Little Mekong to the Mississippi River. Participating businesses had a poster in their storefront window that documented their interaction with the project and their answers to two questions: "What do you want to flow in to this place?" and "What do you want to wash away?"

Business owners wrote these answers on a watering can and with water on the sidewalk, then they poured the water over the sidewalk and into the storm drain to let it water the trees and be cleaned in the tree trenches before it flowed through the underground tunnels to the Mississippi River. The exhibit also included the first application of the new City of St. Paul storm drain stencils, reinforcing the river connection and reminding visitors and residents to keep the streets clean to protect the river. The River-Wash website provides more background and links to resources for protecting the Mississippi River.

River-Wash at Little Mekong is a project by Full Spring Studio, in collaboration with Friends of the Mississippi River, Asian Economic Development Association, and the City of St. Paul Stormwater Stenciling Program. The project is supported by Irrigate.

Learn more at [river-wash.blogspot.com](http://river-wash.blogspot.com)



See More about the project and resources for river protection at: [river-wash.blogspot.com](http://river-wash.blogspot.com)

River-Wash #1: Thai Cafe, Collected 9/9/2013 River-Wash is a project by Full Spring Studio, in collaboration with Friends of the Mississippi River, Asian Economic Development Association, and the City of St. Paul Stormwater Stenciling Program. The project is supported by Irrigate.

## Downstream/Upstream [Link to Website](#)



*My Water Journey, By Grace* (book spread), Inkjet-printed photograph and digital image by artist, altered with crayon by child collaborator, 17 in. x 8.5 in. (open), 2011, photograph taken and later altered at Children's Discovery Academy, Little Canada as part of Downstream/Upstream ([click here to enlarge](#))



*Collecting the River*, Collaged Color Photograph, printed on presentation matte, 16 in. x 12 in., 2011-2012, taken at River Park, Brooklyn Center, MN as part of Downstream/Upstream for final exhibit ([click here to enlarge](#))

### Overall Project:

Medium: Designed experience supported by multiple objects: interactive wall map, photographs, visual journals, mosaics, project documentation in exhibit

Dimensions: Twin Cities Metro Area approximately 20 miles from end to end (see site description)

Date: May 31, 2011-August 31, 2012

Site: Little Canada, St. Paul, and surrounding area

Description: *Downstream/Upstream* is an art/environmental education journey to explore the story of water in an urban water cycle. Downstream/Upstream took early childhood and Kindergarten classes on a two-week journey from their school through their urban water cycle, tracing a path of their sink-water from the Mississippi River, along upstream infrastructure to the faucet. The next week they traveled from their drain, along downstream infrastructure, arriving by boat to the outflow channel where their sink-water returns to the river. Along the way they learned about and played with water, saw the places their water flows and met the professionals behind each stage of the process. They integrated their experience into visual journals with drawings and photos they took, contributed images to *Mapstories*, an 8-foot interactive wall-map/community artists' book, contributed mosaics for the *Watermarks* site installation that marks piped and natural water flows on the site, and they planted native flowers for stormwater quality service projects.

*Downstream/Upstream* was on exhibit May 12-August 8, 2012 at the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture Library at the University of Minnesota. More at: <http://one-downstream-upstream.blogspot.com>



*Clarifier Room*, Color Photograph, printed on presentation matte, 12 in. x 16 in., 2011, taken at St. Paul Regional Water Services, McCarrons Treatment Plant, MN as part of Downstream/Upstream for final exhibit ([click here to enlarge](#))



*Mapstories* and detail, Inkjet-printed map images on paper, transparency film, chrome hardware on fabric-wrapped plywood panels, 8 ft. x 8 ft. 4 in. x 18 in., 2011, shown installed at participants' school, includes photographs taken by children throughout Downstream/Upstream, also part of final exhibit ([click here to enlarge detail image](#))



