

WATERLINE: an interactive photo installation

by Bette J. Kauffman

WATERLINE, an interactive photo installation, consists of photographs mounted edge to edge on white foam core panels with only the water line in each photograph aligned. The foam core panels are installed edge to edge around the perimeter of the exhibition space, again with only the water lines in the photographs aligned. The photographs are selected from approximately 600 exposures made throughout the city of New Orleans, April 1 through June 10, 2006.

WATERLINE is an interactive exhibit. Marking pens are available for visitors to record responses on the foam core above and below the photographs. Many have responded with expressions of passion, anger, hope and faith.

I began photographing the water line in the city of New Orleans because it spoke powerfully to me of the devastation of a wonderful and irreplaceable city. The installation method of exhibiting these photographs seeks to evoke the ubiquitous, equalizing and emotional power of the actual flood line in the city of New Orleans. The interactive aspect of the installation reflects my desire to inspire debate and discussion about the events surrounding Hurricane Katrina.

Online Presence

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Waterlineexhibit>

Website: www.katrinawaterline.com

Exhibit History

Art with a View, Premier Tower, Monroe, Dec. 14 – 31, 2006

Joe W. Brown Memorial Chapel, Grace Episcopal Church, NOLA, Aug. 29 – Dec. 31, 2007

Coolspace @ Artspace, Shreveport, LA, Aug. 28 – Oct. 18, 2008

Starbucks 2008 Leadership Conference, Morial Convention Center, NOLA, Oct. 24-30, 2008

Art with a View, Premier Tower, Monroe, Dec. 12 – 31, 2008

Art with a View, Premier Tower, Monroe, Dec. 10 – 22, 2009

Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, LA, Aug. 12 – Sept. 30, 2010

Holzhauser Gallery, Northwest Florida State College, Niceville, FL, Sept. 3 – Oct. 10, 2010

Art with a View, Premier Tower, Monroe, Dec. 9-16, 2010

Eby Annex, St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Monroe, March 9 – May 1, 2011

The Big Room Gallery, Monroe, August 4 – September 4, 2011

Art with a View, Premier Tower, Monroe, Nov. 15-17, 2012

Northminster Baptist Church, Monroe, Feb. 11 – Mar. 26, 2013

Recognition

1st Place, Multi-Media Division, Art with a View, Premier Tower, Monroe, November 15, 2012

A video about the photo installation titled “WATERLINE (2009),” produced by Alicia Gholar, was presented and **WATERLINE: an interactive photo installation** was named the 3rd Top Creative Project by the Visual Communication Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, Denver, CO, August 11, 2010.

“**WATERLINE: an interactive photo installation as catalyst in processing disaster,**” was presented at Hawaii University International Conferences on Arts & Humanities, Honolulu, January 2012.

“Asking Visually: Constructing Community and Identity in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina,” a presentation about **WATERLINE**, was made at the 5th International Conference on the Arts in Society, Sydney, Australia, July 23, 2010.

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Louisiana at Monroe.

Purchases

A poster of the first panel made has been printed and can be purchased on the WATERLINE
Website listed above.

Individually framed sequences of three or five photographs from the Waterline collection are
available for purchase at varying prices or can be commissioned.