

Spencer Museum Art Cart: Water Transformations



Lisa Grossman
[Navigating](#)



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[86 Bends of the Kaw](#)

This activity features two works of art by Kansas artist Lisa Grossman that focus on water.

What are some words that come to mind when you think about water? Rivers, oceans, thunderstorms, and rainbows? Think about the natural ability of water to transform its surroundings. For example, rivers carve into the earth and move across the land, changing the landscape over time.

Click on the titles or search the Spencer's [collection](#) online to learn more about the artworks.

- Look closely at these two works of art and think about the titles.
- What are these images of?
- Notice how the river moves through the works to create patterns.

The artist wanted to document the 86 bends in the Kansas River, or Kaw, so she flew over the length of the river at sunset and took photographs. She then turned those photos into woodcuts and printed the images on wood panels.

INSTRUCTIONS

For this activity, you will need:

- Paint (watercolor if possible) and a paint brush
- River landscape template (included here), or a blank sheet of paper

Think of how a river moves through the land. Use paint to create your own river landscape. Play around with the amount of water and paint on your brush. What does it look like if your paintbrush is fairly dry? How does it change if you add more water, or more paint?

