



a natural state

Artist: Arianne King Comer

Video 4: The Land, Part B: Robert Middleton

Middleton: My people from way back came here from Wadmalaw and outside Charleston. And they were rice farmers, so they got some money just after the end of the Civil War. So the first family to move, in my family, was in 1866.

I grew up here. I was used to getting up in the morning and seeing the tides coming in and going out...see the salt marshes. We could go out to get crab, shrimp, fish, oysters certain seasons of the year. And you had your vegetable gardens, and had your own chickens, cows. I can remember back when there was nothing but the pine trees. And we had evening thunderstorms with the lightning. You could really smell that...really smell the aroma. You, you, you know you're at home when you see that, you know? Makes a difference.

King: I'm using this batik technique to talk about the importance of land...the significance of symbols in land, in culture. And so it...it's a metaphor for teaching the importance of culture through a technique that is all over the world.

End.