



a natural state

Artist: Arianne King Comer

Video 2: Process, Part A: Outline

King: What I'm doing is batik, and it's used...it's a technique using hot wax and dye. And this technique that I'm using to draw and paint with, actually, I started doing it from my training in Japanese and Chinese art.

So what I'm doing is actually...I'm using a photograph that I got inspired by this wonderful book of Simmons...Philip Simmons. And when I was going through it, it...this was such a good photo of how they used to travel in Charleston area by these bateaux, which is very indigenous to this area. And they still are using bateaux...historically, the local fishermen. And because of the way of...how people lived and collectively did this, I, I'm always attracted to doing subject matter based on history and the lifestyle of, as they say, yesteryear.

So I'm actually...I use a color pencil because, in fact, I know that as soon as dye hits this, the markings are going to go away. And I'm actually doing this in the reverse concept of using a white...a black line, which is what you get with a pencil or ink. And I'm actually starting with the lightest color to the darkest color. So I'm using the wax to outline the images, which winds up being like a highlight around everything that I do. So once I get sort of a grid of what I want in the picture, I start getting the motion of them.

But the good thing about batik is, as I tell my students when I'm working, there are no "oops" with this. So, if in fact, it doesn't work out, I just change my mind and work with what I have. It's like sculpting on a surface.

End.