

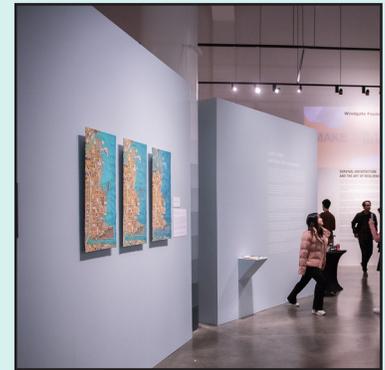
Museum of Craft and Design

RISING TEA LEVELS



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

[Linda Gass'](#) artwork *Dogpatch, the Sea is Rising* depicts the effects of projected three and six feet of sea level rise over the next hundred years. Structural pillars at MCD parallel this height in the gallery space, painted in a gray gradient that demarcates each foot. Slow down and experiment in painting with tea to make your own gradient, and use your tea palette to explore abstract shorelines.



RECOMMENDED AGE/SKILL LEVEL:

Recommended for kids 5+. Younger artists will require assistance with boiling water.

MATERIALS

- White paper (watercolor if available)
- Paintbrush (old toothbrush or tea bag itself can be substituted)
- Tea
- Hot water
- Cup
- Pencil and ruler (optional)



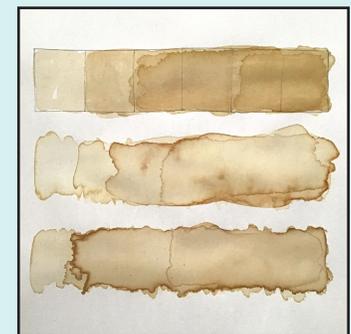
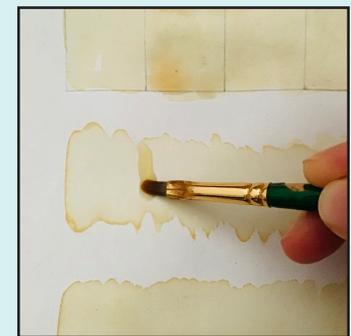
INSTRUCTIONS

- Choose your tea—any type will work:
 - ° Black and rooibos tea will be darker and redder
 - ° Green and white teas will often be very light

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- Boil water and place your teabag or tea ball in a cup. For maximum color intensity, pour just enough water to submerge the teabag. Repeat with other tea types.
Optional: use instant coffee or the strained leftovers from a french press for a rich dark color.
 - Let the tea steep. It's your choice - anywhere from 10 minutes to overnight.
 - Test your shade of tea on paper. You'll likely notice that the first layer of tea is very light.
 - Begin your gradient. You may measure consecutive squares (our grid is 1" x 6") or estimate regular intervals. Paint a smooth rectangle of tea as your first layer. If you like, practice with more than one color of tea at once.
- TIP:** Use a blow dryer to shorten drying time.
- Let the layer dry. This meditative project asks you to return to it throughout the day.
 - Add another layer, painting over everything except one section of the entire first rectangle. Allow each layer to dry, and keep slowly adding new layers that become progressively shorter.
 - The interaction of the tea and paper will vary: some papers may collect pockets of color, and some may create a natural ragged edge.
 - Once your gradient is finished, create an abstract coastline or island shape using your tea.
 - What sorts of natural shapes and formations do you see along the coast? Look up a favorite island or city as inspiration.
 - Create your landform in the same way as the gradient: the largest shape will be your first layer, and once it is dry you'll add another inside of the first.



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This process parallels Linda Gass's work with silk dye: as the dye spreads, its strongest color concentrates at the edge of the shape, as seen in the tea stains.



These landforms are made with black and herbal teas, and coffee.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CONNECT SOCIALLY AND LEARN MORE

Facebook & Instagram: @MuseumofCraftandDesign @lindagassart

Twitter @SF_MCD @lindagassart

Websites

[KQED interview](#) with Linda Gass and her exhibition at MCD

www.lindagass.com