



Oceana Phenomena, sea level stories

Jane Lawton Baldrige



Ms. Miami

Miami “is kind of the poster child for a major city in big trouble,” said Jeff Goodell, author of “The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World.”

Mixed, repurposed mannequin, recycled navigation charts, acrylic paint

Date 2020

Dimensions 68” x 24” x 22”



Toddler Lower Keys

By 2045, the sea level in the Florida Keys will rise 15 inches, according to a projection by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As a result, the city of Key West—the economic powerhouse of Monroe County, Florida—would see more than 300 tidal flooding events per year within the lifetime of today's 30-year mortgages. —Union of Concerned Scientists (October 29, 2015)

Mixed, repurposed mannequin, recycled navigation charts, acrylic paint

Date 2020

Dimensions 34" x 13" x 8"



Child Upper Keys

Just over 90 days passed before residents at Stillwright Point in Key Largo were able to stand in the middle of roads and streets without water touching their feet in late November 2019. —Jim McCarthy (September 24, 2020)

Mixed, repurposed mannequin, recycled navigation charts, acrylic paint

Date 2020

Dimensions 44" x 14" x 24"



Teen Fort Lauderdale

If Florida is “Ground Zero” for rising seas, then East Fort Lauderdale is “Ground Zero of Ground Zero”.—Sam Fields

Mixed, repurposed mannequin, recycled navigation charts, acrylic paint

Date 2020

Dimensions 63” x 22” x 20”



The beginning: I participated in “In Her Image” at the Elliott Museum in December of 2019. I covered the partial torso (to the left) in charts and then I painted her with “waves”. I was so excited about the outcome I realized I could make quite a statement if I used freestanding mannequins in this manner and painted the water climbing up their bodies.

My goal: is to create 25+ (see mock up above) of these mannequins, all specific to areas of concern and have them travel as installations to venues that would allow further education to people who may either be affected by rising sea level and storms or may have control over the mechanisms and science to help slow the progression of inundation.

My ultimate goals are to get this installation into the Whitney Biennial and to partner with environmental non-profits (like Mission Blue) to help spread the messages about sea level rise, plastics and pollution and the threat to our quality of life. Not only now but the future for our children.

