

# School Resource : Fluid lines

## Introduction

**In Arabic the word for universe *alam* and the word for knowledge *ilm* share their origin in the word for a mark *alamah*. To make a mark, to draw a line, is a way of knowing the world...**

Gallery 1 shows the artwork of artist Shahana Rajani. She is interested in how coastal communities in Pakistan experience climate change and economic change. Her work explores how drawing and painting can help coastal communities stay connected to the river.

In Karachi, Pakistan, the people that live by the sea are worried about the changes happening around them. The dams and canals that people have built are stopping the river from reaching the sea. Rising water levels and land erosion mean that the places they care about are disappearing.

They use drawing and painting to help them remember the river, even when they can't be there anymore. Drawing river-maps and painting sea-murals become a ritual for reconnection. These practices follow ancient Islamic traditions of drawing talismans to invoke spiritual protection. People often draw and paint local shrines to show the important role they play in the community.

# School Resource : Fluid lines



**Materials** x 3 sets. Recommend small groups of 3 - 6 students



Flat pack boat



x 2 Water Pens



Roll of Cloth

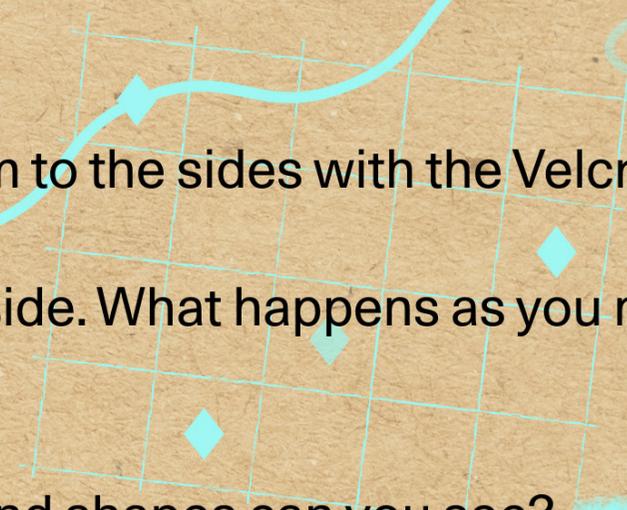
## Activity

Open up the boat. Lift the two triangles and attach them to the sides with the Velcro.

Take a look at the mirrors and shimmering materials inside. What happens as you move the boat?

What do you notice about the reflections? What lines and shapes can you see?

How can you make different kinds of lines and movements?



# School Resource : Water Lines



## Activity:

***“Like the infinite waves of the ocean, each drawing line is alive, moving, breathing.”*** - Shahana Rajani

Think about the reflections and lines you made with your boat. Think about the way that water moves.

Unroll the cloth. With your water pen make marks on the cloth.

Can your drawing lines keep moving? Where do they meet?

Watch what happens as the water dries – your drawings will slowly fade away.

As they disappear, what do you remember?



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## Discussion Prompts

- How do the people of the Indus River Delta use drawing as a way to remember, love and protect? What other ways can making art and creating images do this?
- How can art be used to bring people together and support in times of change?
- What are the ways we honour and remember special people and places?
- Both artists use their art to share stories about people who's lives have been overlooked. Whose stories would you like to share?

