

Primal Forces: Earth



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Welcome to *Primal Forces: Earth*. This gallery guide provides resources to enrich your experience as you view the art quilts here. When you have finished using this guide, please return it to the entrance of the exhibition so it can be reused by future guests.

What comes to mind when you think about quilts? Perhaps you consider their use, or own one that holds sentimental value. Maybe you are a quilter yourself. As you look at the quilts on display in this gallery, you may notice that these quilts are not traditional quilts—they are art quilts. These quilts are not as concerned with functionality; rather, they are more focused on technique and conveying ideas and experiences. This particular exhibition focuses on themes surrounding the earth, and the natural and human forces that shape its cycles.

A broad array of materials and techniques are represented in these art quilts. To watch a short video about some of the various methods used by quilt artists, click on the following link, or locate the gallery iPad video “A Selection of [Quilting Techniques](#).”



L'Attitude Bleue (No Date), Karin Lusnak, Albany, California, USA
Materials: Hand dyed silk and cotton, commercial cotton

Intrinsic Forces

There are many natural forces which alter the earth's matter, whether slowly or rapidly, visibly or imperceptibly, creatively or destructively. Some are calm, others violent. Some are celebrated, while others are feared. This section of the exhibition explores some of these intrinsic forces.

Fast vs. Slow

Choose a slowly occurring change (e.g. the formation of glaciers, canyons, or caves) and find an artwork which addresses your chosen force. How does the artwork inspire awe for the forces of the natural world?

Now choose a rapidly occurring change (e.g. flooding, fire, or flowering) and find a quilt that addresses this force. How has the artist conveyed this change?

Micro vs. Macro

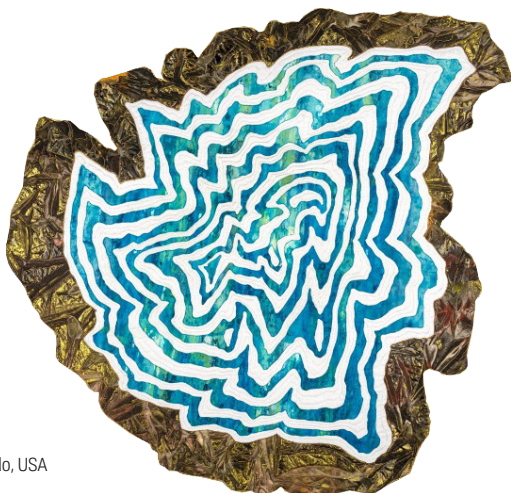
Find a piece that depicts a micro or "zoomed in" view of an intrinsic force. How does the artist draw your attention to the details of this phenomenon?

Now find a work that depicts a macro or "zoomed out" view of an intrinsic force. How does this work make you think or feel about this occurrence?

Did you know?

The fastest wind speed ever recorded occurred during a 1999 Oklahoma tornado: 318 miles an hour. A tornado with windspeeds of more than 300 miles an hour can derail train cars, and tear pavement up from the street!

— National Geographic Kids, "Ten freaky forces of Nature," Douglas E. Richards



Cerulean Lake (2018), Anne Severn, Loveland, Colorado, USA
Materials: Fabric, hand painted silk

Human Impact

There are many ways in which we both positively and negatively contribute to the cycles and forces of the earth. Take a look around this section of the exhibition and notice how many forms of human impact are addressed. In what other ways do humans impact the earth?

Narrow Your Focus

Find one work in this section that appears particularly interesting to you.

What strikes you about the piece? What colors, lines, shapes, or patterns stand out?

Narrow your focus to one section of the artwork. Look closely at the textures and materials. Why do you think the artist chose these materials for this particular quilt?

Stewardship Resources

As stewards of the earth, it is our responsibility to care for the planet. Here are some resources to help you consider your own stewardship and the ways in which you may be able to improve:

[Measure your water footprint](#)

[Gérald Caussé: Our Earthly Stewardship](#)

Did you know?

The average college student produces 640 pounds of solid waste *annually*, including 500 disposable cups and 320 pounds of paper. The amount of waste spikes at the end of the school year.

The Ozone Layer “Hole” is 29 million square kilometers, but because of worldwide bans on chlorofluorocarbon and hydrofluorocarbon, scientists anticipate it will be healed completely in the next 55 years.

Especially for Kids:

Compare and Contrast

This World is on Fire Triptych | *The Language of Trees* | *After the Warming—Permanent Winter*

Find these quilts in the gallery and think about the similarities and differences between them. How do they address different forces while sharing a similar theme?



Scavenger Hunt

Go to the front desk and ask for the quilting samples. Once you have them, look for quilts in the gallery that use the different techniques demonstrated in the samples.

Make sure to return the samples to the front desk when you have finished!

After your visit, take a [short survey](#) about this Gallery Guide.

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LEFT: *After the Warming—Permanent Winter* (2017), Jean Sredl, Shawano, Wisconsin, USA. Materials: Cotton, wool, silk, recycled wool ties, deconstructed sweaters, tencel, fabric paint, wire, hair, heated activated stiffener

COVER: *Slot Canyon #6* (2020), Vicki Conley, Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico, USA. Materials: Cotton