

Mary Burks
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Artist's Statement

Fiber is a very accessible medium.
It is all around us.
Fiber especially engulfs women.
We wash it.
We sweep it.
We sew it.
We wear it.
We stand on it.

As a woman, it is natural to be interested in using fibers creatively – stretching the normal use of fiber by using their physical properties. I have a strong response to fibers and textiles.

While I am a visual artist, I tend to create a body of work that is to be read sequentially, much like a book is read, or music, dance, and theatre are experienced. It requires the viewer to spend time “reading all the pages” of the work. It is very intimate and instinctive work.

Thematically I am exploring internal and exterior landscapes. The majority of my work is informed by my interaction with nature and the spirit of place, whether it is physical, spiritual, or mental. I look for underlying, basic supporting structures both in micro and macro views. Especially the western landscape impacts on my soul and my imagery. I continue to discover that the years that I have spent outdoors—living, playing, and working—have sculpted both me and my work. I continue to have conversations and dialogues with that world and I find that expressing that dialogue through fiber to be rewarding.

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Exhibits

- 2013 Greater Lafayette, Indiana Museum of Art, Invitational
- 2012 Visual Voices, Coupeville, WA, invitational
Whidbey Art Trail
Whidbey Working Artists Spring Studio Tour
- 2011 Whidbey Art Trail
Whidbey Open Studio Tour, Fall
Whidbey Working Artists Summer Tour
Blue Horse Gallery, Bellingham, SDA Exhibit
Pacific Northwest Art School, Spring
Spirit of the Northwest Art Show, Coupeville, WA
- 2010 Whidbey Open Studio Tour, Fall
Whidbey Working Artists, Summer Studio Tour
Pacific Northwest Art School, The Best of Whidbey, Best of Show—Fiber
Pacific Northwest Art School, Fiber Exhibit
- 2009 Chase Gallery, Spokane, Washington, April-July, Invitational
Penn Cove Pottery Gallery, Whidbey Surface Design Exhibit
Whidbey Working Artists Studio Tour, Spring,
Whidbey Open Studio Tour, Fall, Whidbey Island, WA
Coupeville Art Center, Best of Show, Fiber, Whidbey Island, WA
- 2008 Whidbey Open Studio Tour, September 27-28, Whidbey Island, Washington
Coupeville Art Center, Members Exhibits, Whidbey Island WA
Coupeville Arts & Crafts Festival Gallery Show, Whidbey Island, WA
Whidbey Weavers Sale, November 7-8, Greenbank Farm, Whidbey Island, Washington
Oak Harbor Library, June
- 2007 *Conversations in Black and White*, Sullivan Munce Cultural Center, Zionsville, IN
Recharge, Creative Renewal Fellows Exhibition, Harrison Art Center, Indianapolis
Faculty Exhibit, Association of Northwest Weavers Guild, Red Deer, Canada
- 2006 *I Felt Like It*, Calvin College Division St. Gallery, Grand Rapids, MI, solo show.
I Felt Like It, A.R.C. Gallery, Chicago, solo show.
Leaders' Show, Convergence, Handweavers Guild of America, Grand Rapids, Michigan
New Fibers 2006, Fiber Art Network, traveling exhibit
Seven Sisters in Transition, Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis, IN, solo show
Faculty Show, Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis, IN
- 2005 *Elemental Prayers: Mary Burks' Current work*, Lillian Fendig Gallery, Rensselaer, IN
Elemental Prayers: Mary Burks' Current work, Plainfield-Guilford Public Library Gallery
The Creative Impulse: Indiana Women Artists, Minnetrista Center, Muncie, IN
Cloth and Clay, Indianapolis Art Center, C3 Gallery
Moving Toward Heaven : Spirit and Place, Madame Walker Center, Indianapolis
- 2004 *Le Petite XII, Alder Gallery, Coburg, OR*
Indianapolis Art Center, Faculty Show, Indianapolis, IN
Three Voices: Women Through the Generations, Muncie, IN (honorable mention)
Broad Ripple Art Fair, Indiana Art Center
Elemental Prayers, Cultural Center Gallery, Indianapolis IN (two-woman show)
Unpredictable Threads, Wells Cultural Center, Lafayette, IN
C3 Studio Artists Exhibitions, C3 Gallery, Indianapolis Art Center
Studio Showcase, Indianapolis, IN
Interwoven Expressions, Valparaiso, IN
Building and Belonging : Spirit and Place, Indianapolis, IN
- 2003 *Indiana Now*, Museum of Art of Greater Lafayette, Lafayette, IN
Grand WAABash, juried show, Wells Cultural Center, Lafayette, IN
Handing It On, FibR show, Wells Cultural Center, Lafayette, IN
Hands On, Kansas City, Surface Design Association Conference

- Arts Alliance of Indiana, Scholarship
Contemporary Fiber, invitational, Lillian Fendig Gallery, Rensselaer, IN
Fiber Faculty Show, Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis
Layers and Transparencies, Wabash Artists Alliance, Lafayette, IN
- 2002 *Artists Respond: September 11*. Juried regional show, Wells Center, Lafayette IN
H2O in Review—one-woman show, Watson's Crick Gallery, Purdue University
Grand WAABash—Wells Cultural Center, Lafayette, IN
WAAABash Trash Bash—Wells Cultural Center, Lafayette IN
Terra Textiles-two woman show, Wells Cultural Center, Lafayette, IN
Seasons of Life—FibR—Wells Cultural Center, Lafayette, IN
A New Beginning—Crawfordsville, IN, Crawfordsville Indiana
- 2001 Recipient of the Handweavers Guild of America Gable Grant
Midwest Weavers Association, juried style show, IL
Ritual Fiber, Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis, IN
Professional Art Quilters Association: Small Works, (national traveling show)
Shared Journey, juried, Museum of Art, Lafayette, IN
Grand WAABASH—juried, Wells Cultural Center, Lafayette, IN
Five Layers of Separation, FibR Exhibit, Wells Cultural Center, Lafayette, IN
Warmth for the Body: Glorious Coats, Wells Cultural Center, Lafayette, IN
Carte Blanche, Honorable Mention, Wabash Artists Alliance, Wells Center, Lafayette, IN
Art on the Square, Artists' Own, Wells Center, Lafayette, IN
Fine Surface, Award winner, Fine Line Creative Art Center, Regional, Surface Design Association, St. Charles, IL
- 2000 *Jubilation: Celebrating African Textile Traditions*, Arts Consortium – African American Museum, William Mallory Gallery, Cincinnati, OH (invitational)
Blue Ridge Handweaving Show, Ashville, NC, (invitational),
Fiber Collaborations, Handweavers of America Convergence, Cincinnati
Fibers 2000: We make the fashion, Handweavers of America Convergence, juried,
Jubilation: Celebrating African Textile Traditions, Handweavers of America, Convergence
Seeing Through Surfaces, North Central Surface Design Association juried show, St. Charles, IL, Fine Line Creative Art Center
Artwear 2000, Fort Wayne Indiana Museum of Art, featured artist
The Nature of Fiber: Four Woman Show, juried, Wells Cultural Center, Lafayette, IN
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, FibR Exhibit, Wells Cultural Center, Lafayette, IN, May
TAF 2000, Wells Community Cultural Center, Lafayette, IN, January
Lilly Artists, Greater Lafayette Museum of Art, Lafayette, IN, January
- 1999 *Spiritual Pathways*, FibR Exhibit, Wells Community Cultural Center, Lafayette, IN
Susie Gibbs Framing and Art Gallery, *Entwined Blooms: Wearables & Walls*, IN
Bollock and Burks, Monon Gallery, Lafayette, IN
Surface Treatment: An Exhibit of Surface Design on Fabric, Fine Line Arts Center, St. Charles, IL
Hubbard Gallery, Frankfort Public Library Art Sale, Frankfort, IN
One Step Forward, Two Steps Back, Wabash Artists Alliance, Wells Cultural Center, Lafayette, IN
Trunk Show - *Marigolds*, Indianapolis, IN, June and November
Midwest Weavers Conference Award, juried style show
Midwest Weavers Conference Jeannie Walker Memorial Award, juried style show
Midwest Weavers Conference Members Exhibit, 3rd place, wall hangings
WAABASH, Wabash Artist Alliance, juried show, Wells Community Center, Lafayette, IN
Textile Medium V, juried, Arts Chateau Museum, Butte, MT
Waterworks, with FibR, Wells Community Cultural Center, Lafayette, IN
Style Show, Indianapolis, American Stitches Conference

Member: Artist Trust, WA
Surface Design Association
American Craft Council
Handweavers Guild of America
Whidbey Working Artists
Whidbey Weavers Guild, WA
Whidbey Surface Design Association, WA
Whidbey Island Arts Council, WA

Professional Activities:

2012- Presenter, Whidbey Weavers Guild
Instructor, Calgary, CA, Alberta College of Art & Design

2011- Grant, Janet Bratz Memorial Grant, Whidbey Weavers Guild
Secretary, Whidbey Surface Design Association
Newsletter editor, Whidbey Weavers Guild
Whidbey Island Arts Council, Open Studio Tour Committee

2010- Juror, Jefferson County Fair, Weaving
Newsletter editor, Whidbey Weavers Guild
Workshop, Whidbey Weavers Guild (Mastering Fiber Basics)

2009- Newsletter editor, Whidbey Weavers Guild
Presentations Whidbey Weavers Guild

2008- Private instruction through my studio

2007 USAID and Winrock International instructor, papermaking,
Jocotan, Guatemala, Mayan cooperative
Workshop Instructor, Asso. Northwest Weavers Guild Conf.

2006 Leader, Handweavers Guild of America Convergence,
workshop, seminars
Faculty, Fiber, Indianapolis Art Center
PAQA (Professional Art Quilters retreat workshop leader—
(Deconstructed Suit)
Indiana State Representative for Handweavers Guild of America
Workshop Instructor

2005 Recipient Creative Renewal Fellowship, Indianapolis Arts Council
Faculty, Indianapolis Art Center (tapestry, basketry as vessel)
Acid Dye/MX Dye Comparative workshops – Indiana
Lecture, *Psychology of Color*, Indianapolis University
Co-owner, Artists' Own Gallery, Lafayette, IN
Indiana State Representative for Handweavers Guild of America

2004 Indiana Women Artists, Inc. Retreat Coordinator
Grant recipient, Indiana Arts Commission
Faculty, Indianapolis Art Center (silk fusion, felting, natural dyes)
Broad Ripple Village Studio Tours
Lecture: Contemporary Women Artists of Indiana
Artist in Residence – Jefferson High School, Lafayette, IN
Indiana State Representative for Handweavers Guild of America

2003 Secretary, Indiana Women Artists, Inc.
Arts Alliance of Indiana, Scholarship

2002 Treasurer, *Artists' Own* Co-operative, Lafayette, IN
Grant panelist, Indiana Arts Council, Area 4

2001 Studio Assistant, Penland School of Craft, Ana Lisa Hedstrom,
Co-Owner: *Artists' Own*, a co-operative gallery

2000 Artist-in-Residence, Carrol County Consolidated Schools
Co-Owner: *Artists' Own*, a co-operative gallery

2000 Wabash Valley Arts Project Grant, Lafayette, IN

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1997 Instruction, Felting, West Lafayette, IN
1997-2000
CoChair and initiator of FibR, a regional alliance of fiber artists,
Lafayette, IN
1996 Chair, Kids Taste of Tippecanoe (Art Activities) - Lafayette, IN

1996-1999 Secretary, Midwest Weavers Association
1991 Co-Chair, Midwest Weavers Association Conference, Purdue
University

**Gallery
Representation:**

Garry Oak Gallery, Oak Harbor, WA 2008-Aug. 2010
Artists' Own Gallery, Lafayette IN Co-operative Gallery-- 2000-2007
Indianapolis Art Center Gallery Shop—2003-2007

Bibliography:

Craft Report, October 2008, OnLine—Insight Fibers, “Not Imprisoned by
A Successful Product”
“The Beauty of Natural Fibers”, Florida International University, College
of Business
[http://bnetworks.blogspot.com/2007/09/beauty-of-natural-fibers-
inspires.html](http://bnetworks.blogspot.com/2007/09/beauty-of-natural-fibers-inspires.html)
“Moving Toward Heaven” – Interview, Indianapolis Star, 11/2005
Lafayette Leader, Interview, Lafayette, IN 2003
TV18, Lafayette, IN Interview, Feb 24, 2001
Lafayette Journal and Courier, May 2000
TV 18, Lafayette, IN, November 22, 1999
Lafayette Journal and Courier, Lafayette, IN, May 1, 1998
Frankfort Indiana, newspaper interview, May 1, 1998

Corporate & Private Collections (Selected)

Oklahoma State Permanent Art Collection
IVY Tech State Community College, Lafayette, IN
Cushing Dye Company Web Page Gallery
Jasper Shealy, Rochester, NY
Carole Kraus LTD, NY NY
Bassamma El-Borno, Lititz, PA
Montessori School, West Lafayette, IN
Steve and Annette Bowles, Tulsa, OK

Education:

BA 1975 University of Oklahoma
Indiana University, 1977-78
Purdue University, 1982-83
1983 Art Education Endorsement K-12, State of Indiana

Work Experience:

1997- Professional studio artist
1988.1997 Library Assistant, West Lafayette Indiana Public Library
1984 Newsletter Editor, Librarian, Purdue University, Black
Cultural Center
1983-1984 Library Assistant, Purdue University
1980.1982 Library Assistant, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
1976-1979 Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN