

**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.

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

- 2009 Chase Gallery, Spokane, Washington, April-July
- 2008 Whidbey Open Studio Tour, September 27-28, Whidbey Island, Washington  
Whidbey Weavers Sale, November 7-8, Greenbank Farm, Whidbey Island, Washington
- 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: Current work*, Lillian Fendig Gallery, Renssalaer, IN, one-woman show  
*Elemental Prayers: Current work*, Plainfield-Guilford Public Library Gallery, one-woman show  
*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, Renssalaer, IN  
*Fiber Faculty Show*, Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis  
*Layers and Transparencies*, Wabash Artists Alliance, Lafayette, IN  
*Spirit and Place*. Unitarian Universalists Church, Indianapolis, IN
- 2002 *Artists Respond: September 11*. Juried regional show, Wells Cultural 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*, Asheville, NC, (invitational),  
*Fiber Collaborations*, Handweavers of America Convergence, Cincinnati  
*Fibers 2000: We make the fashion*, Handweavers of America Convergence, juried, Cincinnati  
*Jubilation: Celebrating African Textile Traditions*, Handweavers of America Convergence, Juried, Cincinnati  
*Seeing Through Surfaces*, North Central Surface Design Association juried show, Fine Line Creative Art Center, St. Charles, IL, May  
*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*, with FibR Lafayette, IN  
*Bollock and Burks*, Monon Gallery, Lafayette, IN  
*Surface Treatment: An Exhibit of Surface Design on Fabric*, Fine Line Creative Arts Center, St. Charles, IL  
 Hubbard Gallery, Frankfort Public Library Art Sale, Frankfort, IN  
*One Step Forward, Two Steps Back*, Wabash Artists Alliance, Wells Community 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
- 1998 Wabash Artists Alliance, Wells Community Center, Lafayette, IN  
 Frankfort Indiana Public Library Art Show and Sale  
 Trunk Show, Country Girl, West Lafayette, IN  
 FibR Style Show, Indianapolis American Stitches  
 FibR Exhibit, Indianapolis American Stitches  
 Cross Currents, FibR Exhibit, Wells Community Center, Lafayette, IN  
 FibR Style Show, Friends Annual Meeting, Frankfort, IN Public Library  
 FibR Exhibit, Frankfort Indiana Public Library  
 FibR Exhibit, Crawfordsville Indiana Public Library

1997 Trunk Show, Country Girl, West Lafayette, IN  
1997 Frankfort Indiana Public Library Art Sale, Hubbard Gallery  
1991 Best of Category, Fabric, Midwest Weavers Conference, Purdue  
1989 Watson Crick Gallery, Individual Show, Purdue University  
1987 Indiana Now, Greater Lafayette Museum of Art, Lafayette, IN  
1986 Indiana Now, Greater Lafayette Museum of Art, Lafayette, IN  
1983 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Purdue University, Art and Design Spring Competition  
1982 Student Juried Show, Purdue University  
1972 Outstanding Art Student, Elk City High School, Elk City, OK

**Member:**

Surface Design Association  
American Craft Council  
Handweavers Guild of America  
Professional Art Quilters Association  
Whidbey Weavers Guild

**Professional Activities, Teaching, and Memberships:**

2008 – Vice President, Whidbey Weavers Guild  
2007 – USAID and Winrock International instructor, papermaking, Jocotan, Guatemala with a Mayan cooperative  
- Workshop Instructor, Association Northwest Weavers Guild Conference  
2006 – Leader, Handweavers Guild of America Convergence, workshop, Seminars  
- Faculty, Indianapolis Art Center (Deconstructed suit, Tapestry, Shibori)  
- 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 (spinning and weaving guilds in 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, with Ana Lisa Hedstrom, Penland, North Carolina  
- Part Owner: *Artists' Own*, a co-operative gallery  
2000 - Artist-in-Residence, Carrol County Consolidated Schools  
- Part Owner: *Artists' Own*, a co-operative gallery  
2000 - Wabash Valley Arts Project Grant, Lafayette, IN  
1999 - Wabash Valley Arts Project Grant, Lafayette, IN  
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:** Indianapolis Art Center Basile Gallery Shop

**Bibliography:**

“The Beauty of Natural Fibers”, Florida International University, College of Business  
<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:**

1995-	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	Cataloger, Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN