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EVE STOCKTON

STATEMENT

I am part of an age-old continuum of artists making nature-based art. Growing up as a tomboy in rural Ohio, I was a keen observer of the natural world around me. Later, my training/work in architecture helped hone my love of design, pattern, structure and working with my hands. Today I am still inspired by nature's variety and wonders. How does one capture an evanescent moment of fast-moving clouds, light through the trees or the bursting forth of new life? My large-scale print images are an attempt to express just such phenomena.

I engage the ancient art of woodcut printmaking to produce an on-going investigation that concerns nature and science. Working with different levels of abstraction, my woodcut prints offer a distillation of the natural world observed and the primordial world imagined. Often the prints evoke landscapes as well as cellular activity. Since 2005 my art has been regularly featured on the cover of *Nature Genetics Magazine*.

My woodcut print process first involves hand-carving the 3' x 3' woodblocks, a different block for each color layer of each image. Master printer, Susan Goldman (Lily Press, Rockville, MD), and I carefully align each freshly inked block onto archival paper before it gets covered with a felt blanket and run through a big press. The open-ended investigation and playful possibilities of this studio time allows me to build up color layers in a painterly fashion for each print. The finished prints can stand alone, be presented in series or can be used as modules in larger presentations. This variety allows me to expand certain visual narratives and to explore themes such as variation, evolution and environmentalism.