

# Welcome.

Stitch to someone near you.

Introduce yourself to at least two people.



# Intelligence of Hands

Hands weigh, compare, adjust, play, and test.

Every movement of the hand is a form of investigation.

Before words, there are hands.

Play begins in the hands.

Hands often understand before words appear.

Touching materials is touching ideas.

@littlepeople

based on the work of Maria Montessori  
and Loris Malaguzzi

A photograph of a dense forest with tall, thin trees, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text is centered on the image.

Data Embodied:

Building Knowledge Through  
Hands-on Techniques



Guides:

Kim Abeles

Elly Dallas

Amy Ben-Kiki

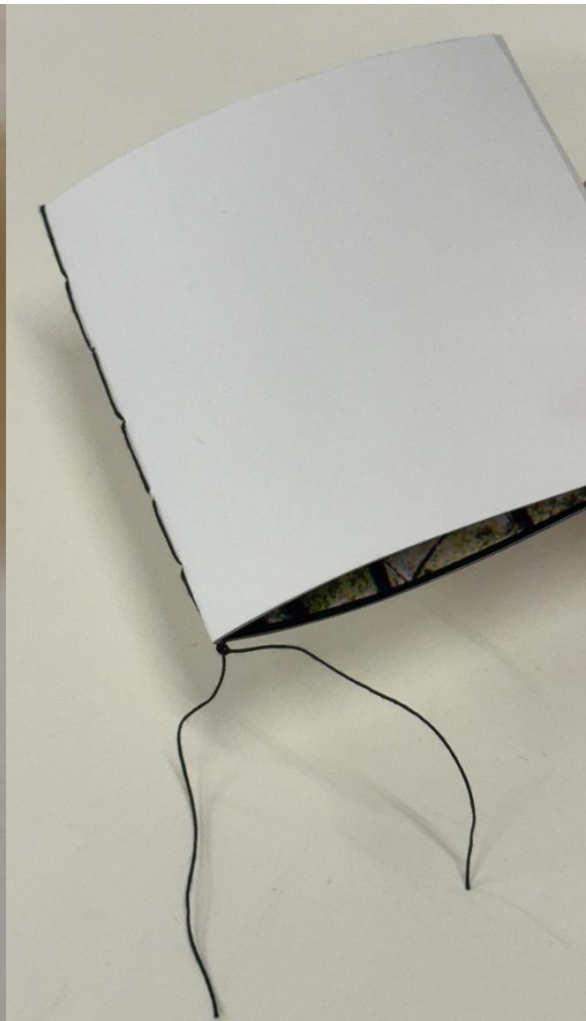
Gabriella Crooks

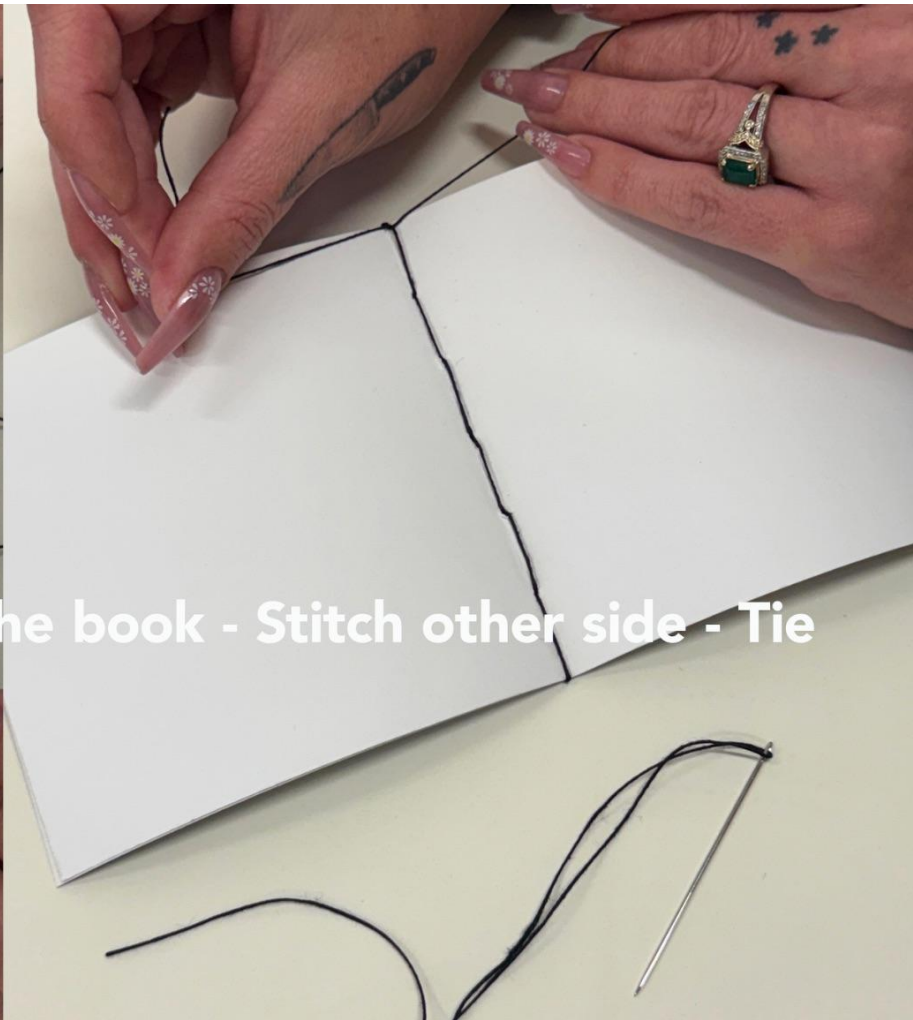
## Today's objective:

Partake in hands-on, tactile methods of artmaking and artful thinking that can help interpret our daily life, engender memory, and ultimately provide a means for knowledge building that does not rely on technology as we currently experience it.

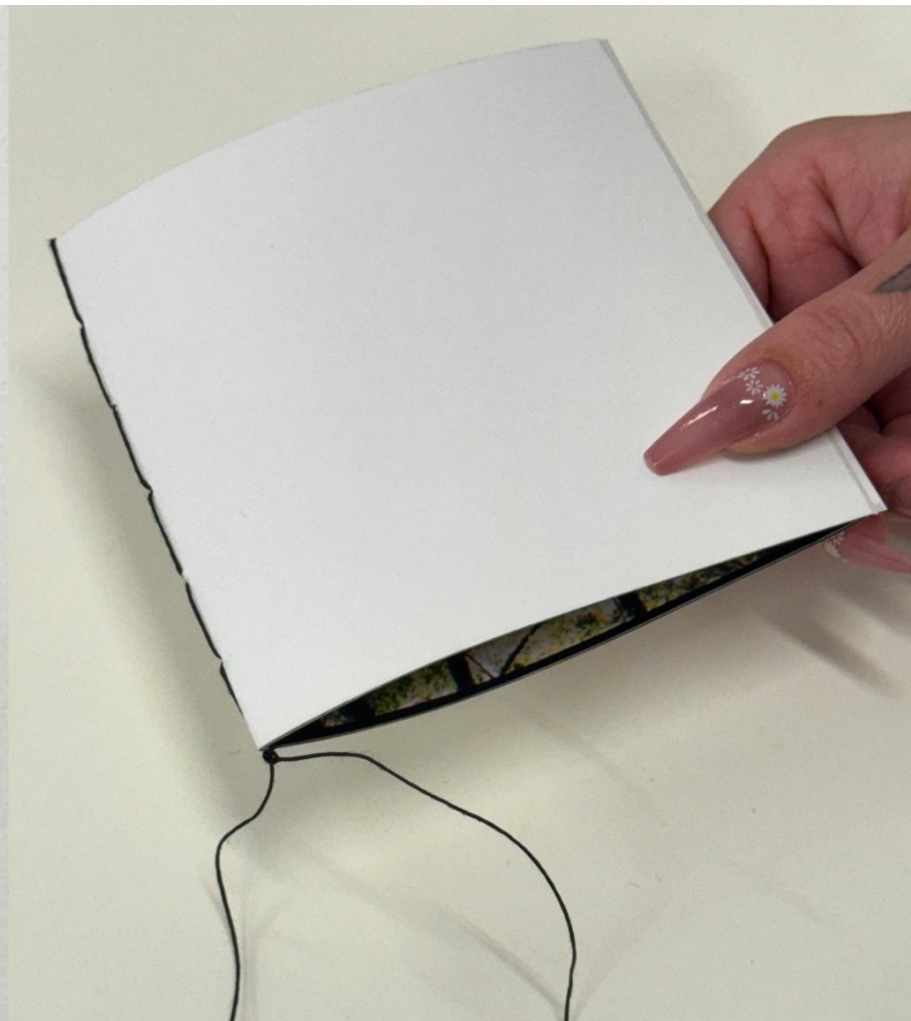
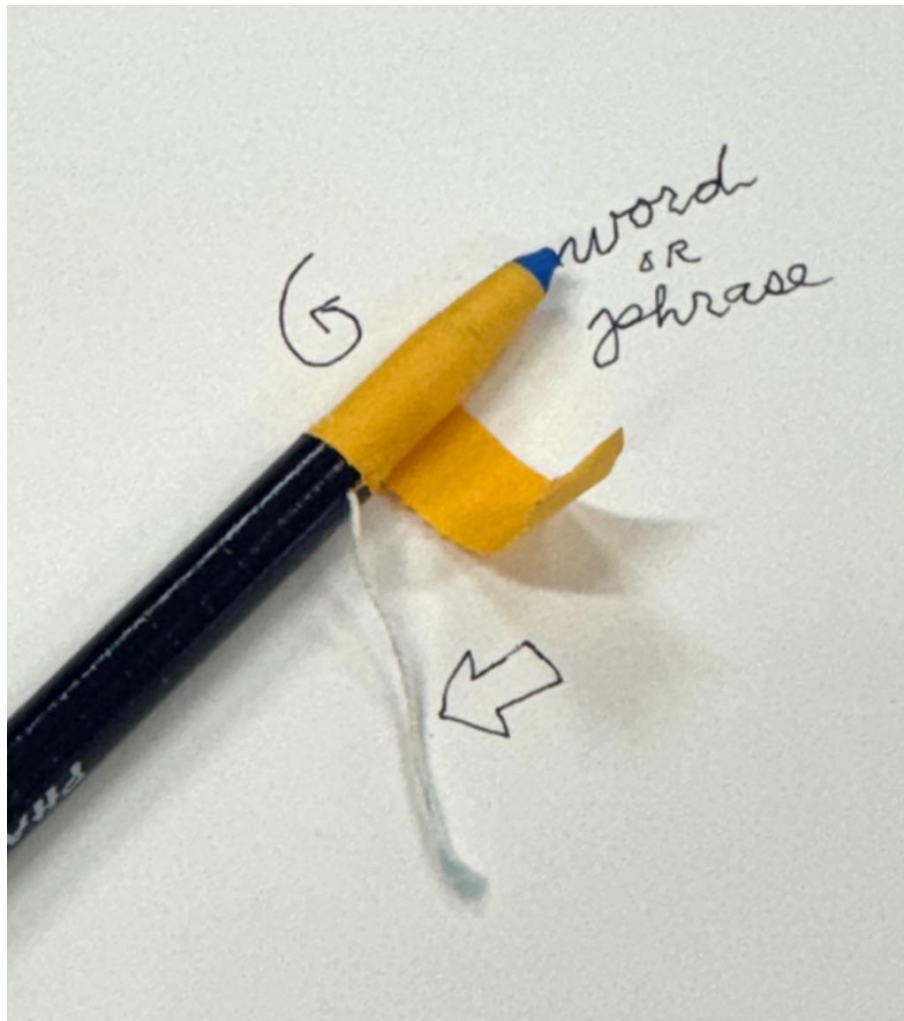


Grounding and visualization





Stitch on one side - Turn over the book - Stitch other side - Tie



word  
OR  
phrase



**The tree you had in your mind's eye:**

**How did the root or canopy look or feel**

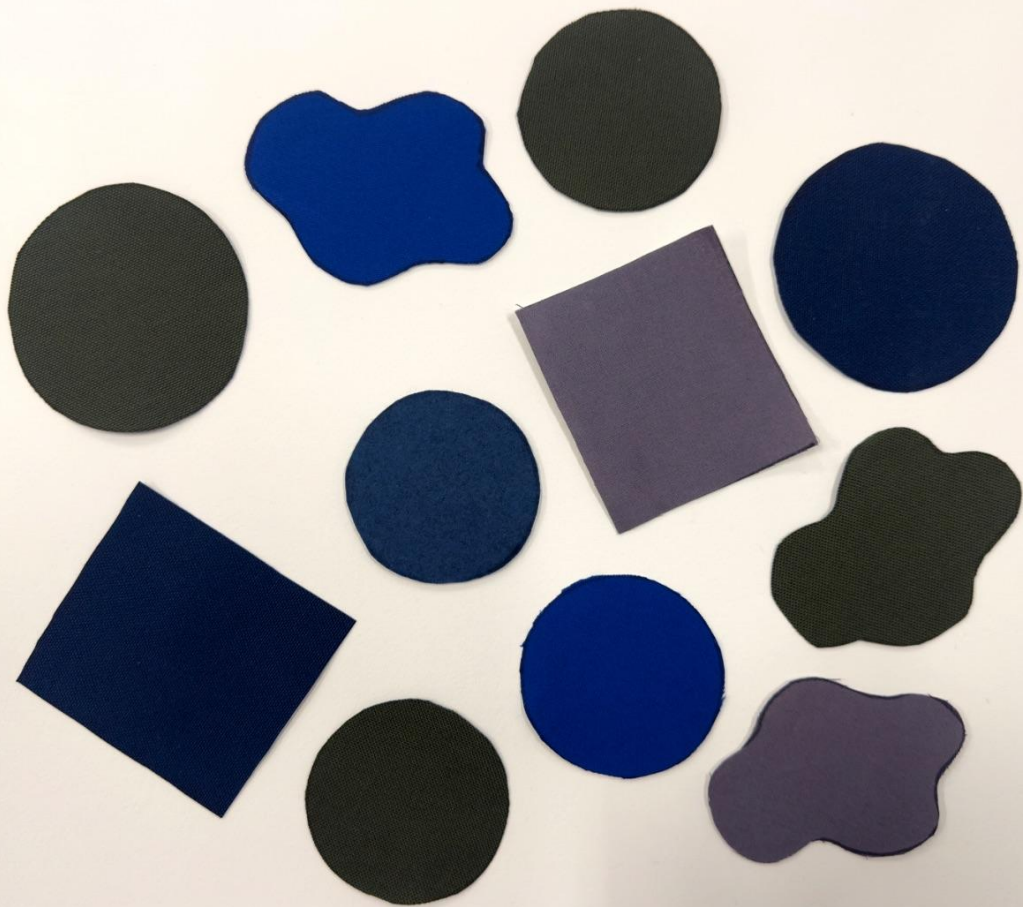
**Was this about its location**

**or a time period?**

## Patch Stitching

Select one of the fabric shapes.

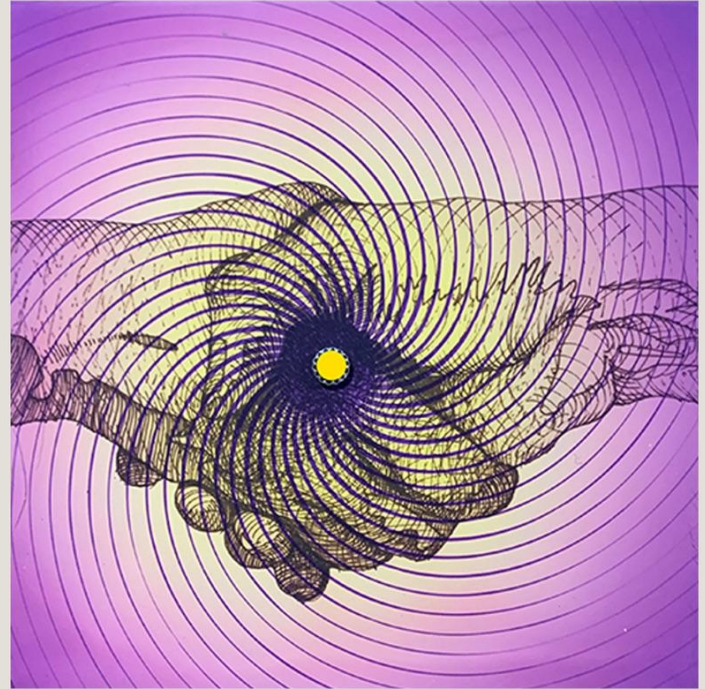
Note that they not only have different shapes and colors but the fabrics have different textures.



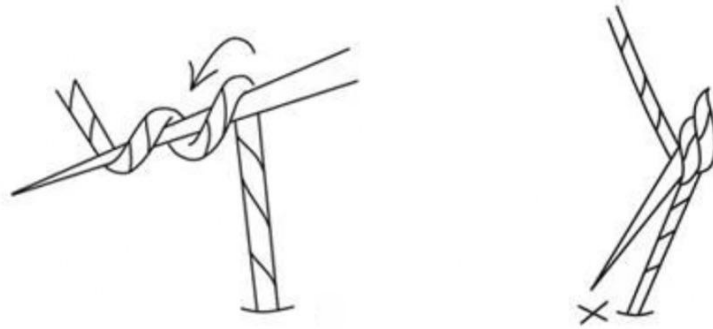
Of the presentations you've attended and the information you've heard,

or the conversations you've had,

what stuck in your mind as something you would pass on to someone?



## FRENCH KNOT



Part of data work is processing it and making meaning of it.

In the center of the patch, attach a button or stitch a french knot.



Using the metallic markers, surround the center with shapes and simple images (think logos, symbols, and signs).

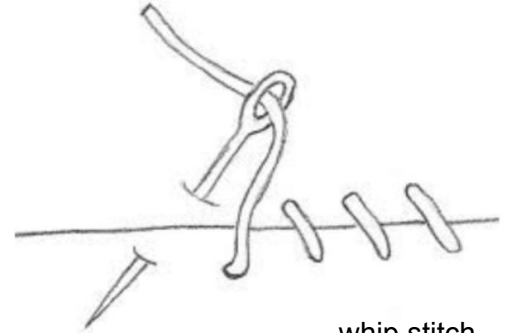
Without words, how would you show sharing?



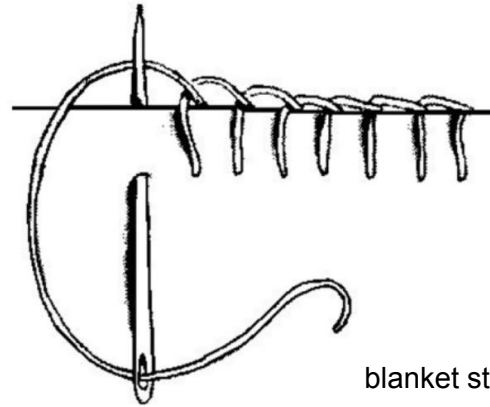
Here is how to make a whip stitch around the perimeter of your patch.

Select a color of embroidery thread, thread the needle, and make a few stitches.

You can take this home to complete the stitches



whip stitch



blanket stitch



The olive tree outside my window

# Spending Time, Slow Activities, Creative Process



# Intergenerational Community Sewing Circles



LACMA's Fiber Makers Circle



# DIY Art Residency with my Grandparents



In order to collect new information, I must try new things, create new scenarios and adventures, put myself in new situations, and dream up new plans for connecting with others.







## Weaving a Life

The collective began after we worked together to create a textile themed ofrenda honoring the lives of those who worked with textiles during their lives. Because the ofrenda existed in a community space, we thought it would make sense to offer an area for visitors to write and pin the names of their own loved ones to contribute. We were moved by the experience and as a result, realized our strength in working as a collective.

# Fiberistas Collective

We can interact with viewers through our artworks by asking questions that engage them. We can hope this has a positive ripple effect.



For the Bus Bench BroadCast public art project, we invited folks to reflect on their experiences involving sewing and mending.



# Building Knowledge through Art Ed



"I'm a better thinker because I teach. I realize that my ideas are stronger when they are in service of other knowledges in other people."  
-Ocean Vuong





My neighbor's papaya tree

## Observational Drawing with Ink on Seed Paper

Select one of the seeds.

With the brush and ink, paint an image of the seed on the seed paper. This can be the entire form of the seed or a detail and its texture.

You will be sharing the ink container among four of you. Like the sewing of the fabric tablecloth, it requires cooperation and attentiveness.



If you want to keep painting,  
add sprouts to the seed.

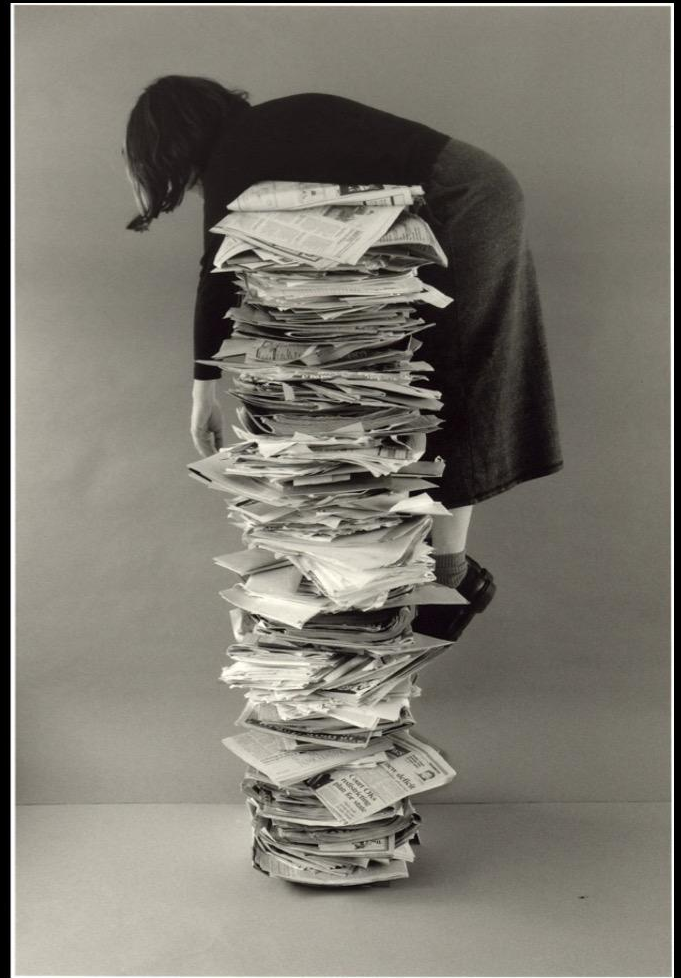
Later, you can plant the drawing.





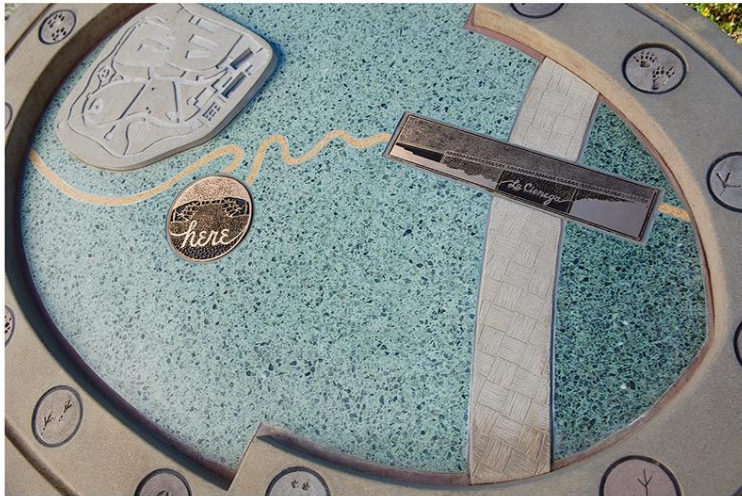
*Assisted Living (2024)*  
*Self portrait with Files (1995)*

KIM ABELES





**Citizen Seeds** along the Park to Playa Trail (2019-21)  
Permanent artwork funded by the Los Angeles  
County Arts and Culture. Photos: Ken Marchionno;  
Seed 5-Coast Live Oak: Joyce Kim/New York Times



**Citizen Seeds Site 4 - California Black Oak  
Park to Playa Trail (2019-21)**



**Citizen Seeds Site 1 - Sugar Pine  
Park to Playa Trail (2019-21)**





**Paper Person (2010)**  
Collection of California Science Center, Los Angeles

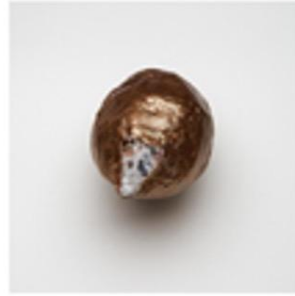
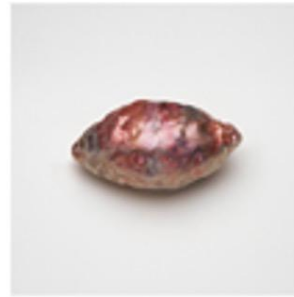




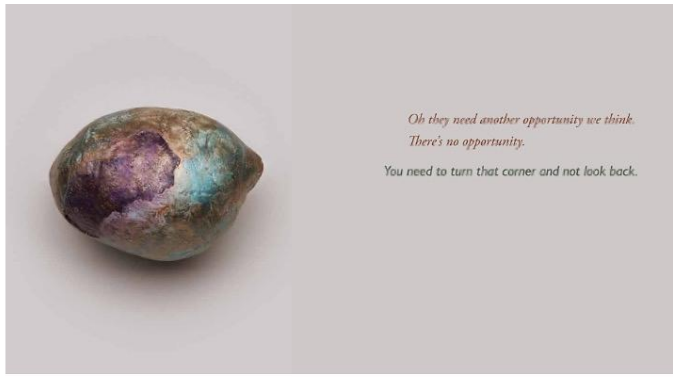
**Dinner for  
Two in One  
Month of  
Smog  
(2012)**

Museum of Art  
and Design,  
New York





**Pearls of Wisdom – End the Violence (2009-11). Abeles with A Window Between Worlds**



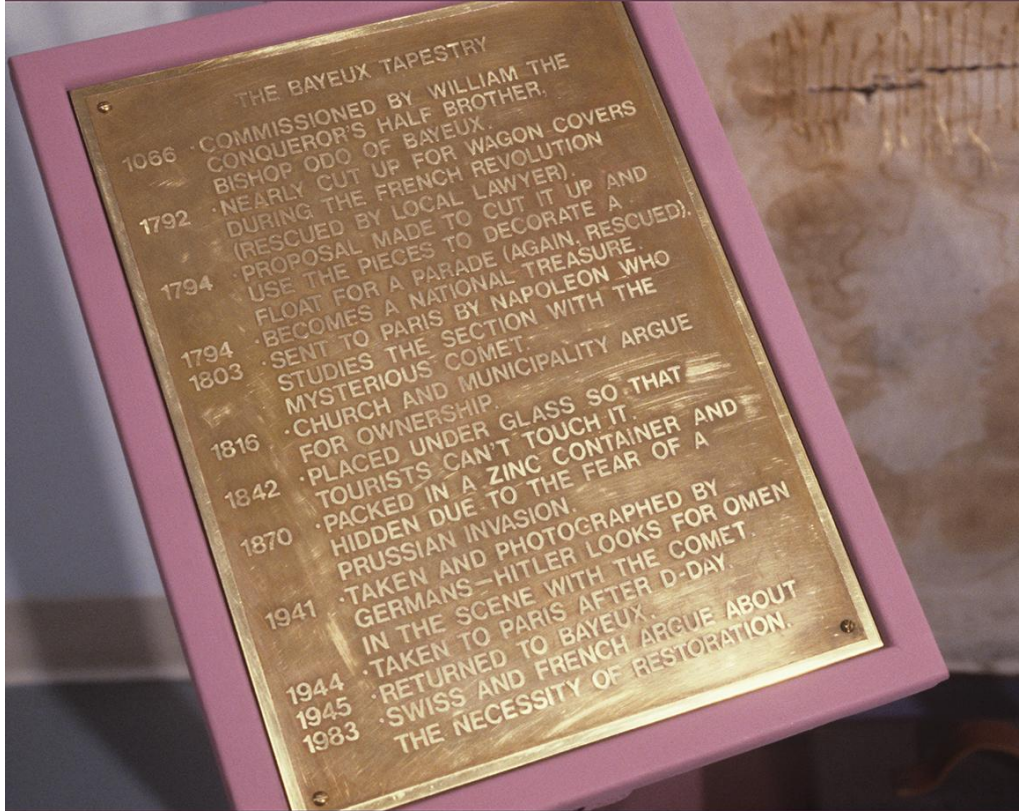


## Space + Time

*I envisioned concentric circles drawn upon the Los Angeles city map with the La Brea Tar Pits as the center point. (The Tar Pits as a beginning, a center of time and space, a place where the mammoths sink and the surface bubbles.)*



*The Map is a Legend (Equidistant Inland Empire), 2018  
Sculptural table showing the Inland Empire and the San Andreas Fault Line as a painted and incised pigment print map. The tabletop displays framed photos of the area taken by 24 community members. Abeles then located each site and its sister site that is equidistant from the center-point, a spot along the Fault Line. A piece of rock taken from a crevice in the Andreas Fault is placed in the center of the table.  
7" diameter x 35"  
Photo: Ken Marchionno*



*A Problem with Maintenance* Collection of LACMA

# Sky Leaves (2015-2022)

Permanent installation; mixed-use building in San Gabriel, CA  
City of San Gabriel Public Art Program



## Sky Leaves

**Bayonet Ginkgo** 1,000+100 years old  
Chengde Ginkgo Institute  
Baogong, Wufeng, Garguandao, South Korea  
By photo: Sergio Park

**O Palmetto** ~400 years old  
Apalachee mounds (Carrasco legend)  
Historic Colonial (Newborough), Santa Fe de Paula  
Quito, Ecuador  
By photo: Pedro Somo Tolo

**Serve Akabak** 4,500 years old  
Pavon Cypress (Carrasco impression)  
Montevideo, Uruguay, Uruguay  
By photo: Mehmet Ozkan

**Bulle Tree** 2,500 years old  
Saxony, Germany  
Saxony, Germany, Saxony, Germany  
By photo: Mehmet Ozkan

**The Major Oak** 800-1,000 years old  
Dorset, England  
Dorset, England, Northamptonshire, England  
By photo: Mehmet Ozkan

**The Big Banyan Tree** 1,800-2,000 years old  
Chennai in Madras (Banyan) (Palaemon)  
Madras, Chennai, India  
By photo: Boulet

**Kingpin Tree** 4,000-5,000 years old  
Columbus, New York (New York)  
Langdon, Colney, New York  
By photo: Michael Coker

**Oliverio de Mauchin** 1,300 years old  
China, New China (impression)  
Changsha, Hunan, China, Hunan, China  
By photo: Paulo Roche

**Redwood** The Trembling Giant ~8,000 years old  
Quadrangle of Sequoia (Palaemon)  
Palaemon National Forest, Utah, United States  
By photo: Leonard Anderson

**Taniguchi** 1,000+100 years old  
Japan (impression)  
Taniguchi National Park, Miyagi, Japan, Miyagi, Japan  
By photo: Shirogane Rikuhiko

**Whispering Palm Linden Tree** 1,000+100 years old  
Whispering Palm, City Park, Adelaide, Canada  
By photo: Laurel Olin

**Albino Tree of Life** 150 years old  
Botanical (impression)  
Royal Botanic Park, Gaborone, Botswana, South Africa  
By photo: Michael

**South Oak** 1,000 years old  
Hudsonville (impression)  
Hudsonville, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan  
By photo: George Nance

**Old Yew** 1,000 years old  
Hudsonville (impression)  
Hudsonville, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan  
By photo: George Nance

**Yew** 1,000 years old  
Columbus, New York (New York)  
Saxony, Germany, Saxony, Germany, Saxony, Germany  
By photo: Paulo Roche

**Carbon Century Balboa Tree** 1,000 years old  
Hudsonville (impression)  
OSCA Park, Los Angeles, California, Philippines  
By photo: Anne Hill (impression)

**Big Tree** 1,000+100 years old  
Hudsonville (impression)  
Hudsonville, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan  
By photo: Sergio Boulet

**The Gravel** ~400 years old  
Hudsonville (impression)  
Hudsonville, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan  
By photo: Anne Hill (impression)

**Ying Xi Song in Welcoming Guests Pine** 1,000 years old  
Hudsonville (impression)  
Hudsonville, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan  
By photo: Fengyi Song

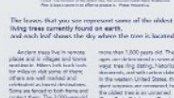
**Lahore - El Ahadi** 1,000-400 years old  
Hudsonville (impression)  
Hudsonville, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan  
By photo: Michael Coker

**El Arbol del Tule** 1,400-2,000 years old  
Hudsonville (impression)  
Hudsonville, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan  
By photo: Michael Coker

**Arbol de Cristo Casado** in Chestnut of Ohio  
Hudsonville (impression)  
Hudsonville, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan  
By photo: Michael Coker

**Cedar Apple** 3,000+100 years old  
Hudsonville (impression)  
Hudsonville, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan, Michigan  
By photo: Michael Coker

**Saxony Olive Tree of Faith** 1,000-6,000 years old





**Valises for Camp Ground: Arts,  
Corrections & Fire Management in  
the Santa Monica Mountains  
(2018)**

Collection of Los Angeles County  
Arts and Culture





Valise 1 – Fire Line

## Message Print

What message would you send to the future, a group, or a particular person?

Is there a word that you would share through this message? Consider the **ripple effect** of our knowledge.

Sometimes adding an unexpected element of chance can help to look at knowledge from **another direction**. Look inside your setting card.

For an ink print, a word needs to be written **backwards** so that it's legible when it is printed.





You'll make two prints that are folded to make cards. Mail one card and hand-deliver the other.



Q. What did you learn during this breakout session that can help you build and maintain knowledge?

Q. What is one practice or tool you learned today that you'd like to put to use in the future?

Q. What is one question about building and maintaining knowledge in the arts that you're leaving with today?