

Time & Seasons

Why did the artist take a year to make some of her art?

Everything in this exhibition was made laboriously by hand. By spending time working closely with materials and responding to the natural world, the artist invests each artwork with something of herself and learns about herself through creation.

The Sky Vest took over a year for the artist to bead and sew by hand, fitting it precisely to her body and rendering a view of the clouds from her perspective. The artist depicts the lengthy collaboration with the sun and water to grow plants in her garden. Her non-toxic cyanotype prints on cotton depict the plants she tended. Cyanotype is a direct photographic process that doesn't require a camera, but like plants, requires sunlight. Cyanotypes are turned blue by exposure to sunlight; objects, in this case, silhouettes of crows, tobacco, fireweed and botanicals, placed on top of the treated fabric shielded it from the sun creating a white image.

Tied Up in Knots

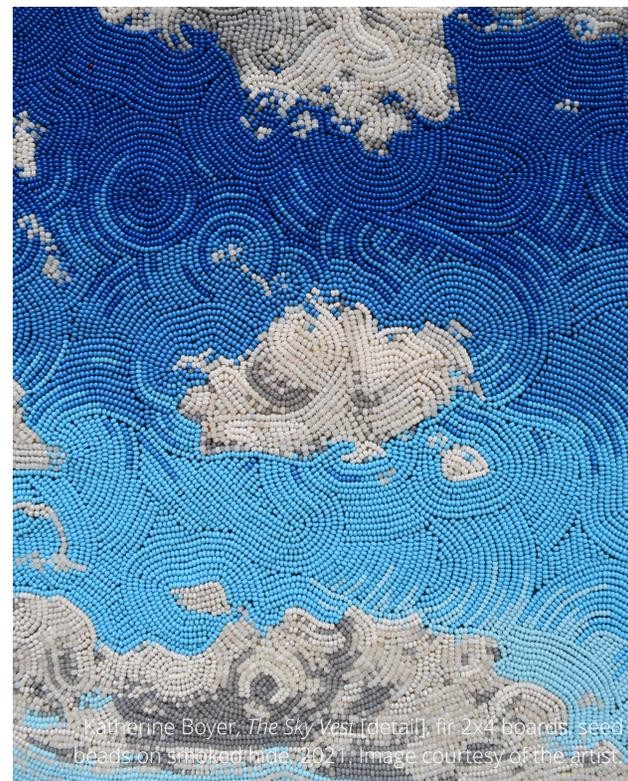
What do knots make you think of?

Many of the ways that Boyer creates her artworks rely upon knot-making: sewing, stitching beads to hide, and tufting yarn for rugs. With their repeated squares bisected by diagonals, even her lightboxes reference how quilters stitch together patches to make their finished work. Tying knots can mean objects are secure or ideas complete. However, knots can also be frustrating; "tying yourself up in knots" means worrying or confusing yourself. Boyer tied a plastic clothesline in so many knots that it no longer functions for hanging clothes illustrating how we can defeat ourselves by overthinking or overworking.



Katherine Boyer, *The harder I work, the less I exist, the more I become the work: the closedline* [detail], Knotted clothesline, willow root, plywood crates, 2021.

Self-guided tour



How the Sky Carries the Sun
Katherine Boyer
January 13 - March 13, 2022

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How the Sky Carries the Sun



Katherine Boyer, *The Sky Vest*, fir 2x4 boards, seed beads on smoked hide, 2021.

What does the exhibition title mean?

The artist, Katherine Boyer, asks herself "Am I the sky, or am I the Sun?" as a way of understanding herself in relationship to the world, society, history and her lived experiences.

While the sky may hold the sun, they are interdependent, like different aspect of the artist's, or anyone's, identity. The Sky and the Sun support each other. Likewise, Boyer refuses to reduce her identity to one term in a pair of seeming opposites, like "gay" or "straight" as opposed to "Queer," or "Indigenous" or "white Settler" as opposed to "Métis." Instead she celebrates how they create a complex whole.

Hard/Soft



Katherine Boyer, *The Sky Vest*, fir 2x4 boards, seed beads on smoked hide, 2021.

Is clothing a good construction material?

Boyer includes hard and soft components in each work, alluding to how the sun and sky are mutually supportive.

A decoratively beaded moosehide vest becomes an integral structural component that holds together the imposing wooden 2x4 roof truss in Boyer's sculpture *The Sky Vest*. A truss would typically hold up a roof; here, a small, flexible, personal item of clothing supports this sheltering architecture.

Not Just One Thing

Do you see things that the artist is using in unexpected ways?

Like the artist herself, nothing in this exhibition is just one thing. Wooden lightboxes are assembled like quilts. A rug is made not from tufts of yarn but lengths of Mason's line. Even the crates used to ship the exhibition become a part of the artworks when they reach their destination.



Katherine Boyer, *The harder I work, the less I exist, the more I become the work: the closedline*, Knotted clothesline, willow root, plywood crates, 2021.

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