



Press Release

Parched: Works by Jennifer Falck Linssen
March 24 - May 5, 2013
Berea College - Doris Ulmann Galleries, Berea, KY
Contact: Meghan C. Doherty
Email: meghan_doherty@bera.edu
Contact: Jennifer Falck Linssen
Email: jennifer@jenniferfalcklinssen.com

Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink.

This project began with a discovery. Thirteen years ago I learned I had no right to the rain water falling on my land. I had moved to the dry, arid West where growth and stability rely on water and access to it. On a micro level, my little vegetable plot, the cost of my water bill, and the value of my house and land depended on it. On a macro level, the economy of the city and state I lived in and the health of the natural ecosystem rested on it.



Excited to own our first home, I sat down to plan the landscape and garden on the bare patch of earth surrounding our newly built house. Lingo, such as xeriscape, dryland, high desert plains, and reservoirs, were words I'd only heard in passing before moving to this majestic state. These words were to become my new reality.

As an avid gardener and a lover of nature, I wanted to do what was right for the land I now owned and I began researching, learning, and growing in this new community. What I learned is that I had very restricted rights to the water that fell on my land. At the time, Colorado was the only state in the union where a person could not own a rain barrel actively collecting and storing rainwater runoff. As a result of this, water to nourish and feed my vegetable garden had to be purchased from the local municipality. My municipality was acquiring water just like most other towns and cities throughout Colorado - from the snowmelt high in the Rockies - every precious drop piped and diverted down the mountain to be stored in multiple reservoirs nearby. My municipality, though, and the others like it were competing with other states, such as California and Arizona, for these water rights. The partitioning of water rights has consequences. Not only could water for growing my small vegetable garden and landscape be rationed, but the water via a series of extensive irrigation ditches could be seriously limited to the Colorado farmer who's very livelihood depended on it. The affect on humans, livestock, and agriculture is just one aspect of this complex issue. Water levels in the mountain rivers are altered affecting the landscape and wildlife all along its path. The Colorado river now dries up before reaching the sea.

The exhibit "Parched" highlights the significance of rain. It is a tiny step toward spreading awareness about the critical issue of water resources.

Combining the ancient art of *katagami*-style paper carving with more traditional basketry and metalsmithing techniques, Jennifer Falck Linssen creates contemporary sculptures that transform the humble, two-dimensional stencil into a unique three-dimensional art form. This exhibit will showcase Linssen's *katagami* sculptures and kataezome prints. "Parched: Works by Jennifer Falck Linssen" will be on view March 24 through May 5, 2013, at Berea College, Doris Ulmann Galleries, Berea, KY.

Linssen's work has been displayed in solo museum and university exhibitions in Los Angeles, Illinois, Michigan, South Carolina, and Colorado, and in multiple-artist exhibitions across the country. Her sculpture has been featured in publications including *Southwest Art Magazine*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Surface Design Journal*. She is represented by browngrotta arts in Wilton, Connecticut.

This past summer Jennifer Falck Linssen moved to northern Wisconsin.

quote: The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

****High-resolution images available****

Berea College Doris Ulmann Galleries

Chestnut St. and Ellipse St., Rogers-Traylor Art Building, Berea, KY, 40404
(859) 985-3530

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

CLOSED Holidays and College vacations (see website for details).

<http://www.berea.edu/art/doris-ulmann-galleries/>

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