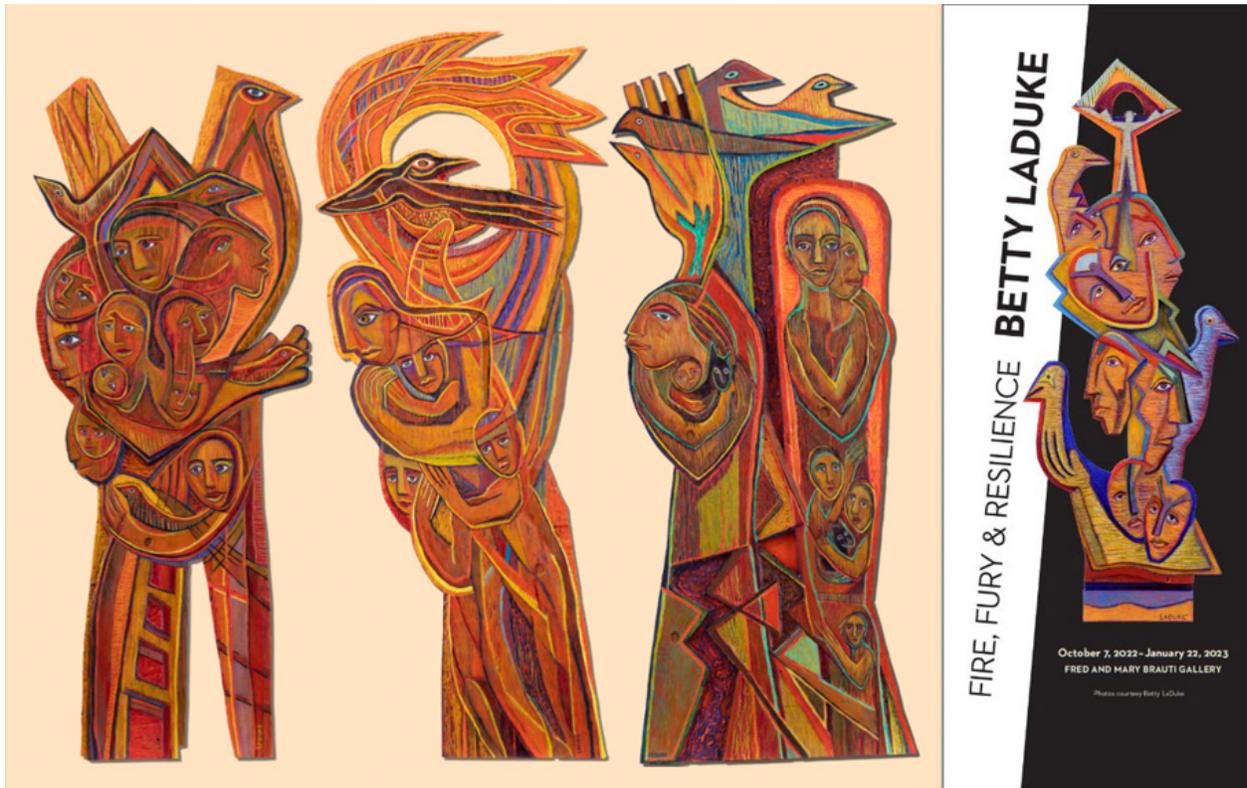


## FIRE, FURY, and RESILIENCE: ART BY BETTY LADUE



*Alone in my Oregon studio, the world rushes in and I have a compelling need to give form to the local and global events reshaping our lives. – Betty LaDuke*

**“Fire, Fury, and Resilience: Totem Witnesses and Turtle Wisdom** presents an opportunity to experience Betty LaDuke’s most recent work and to travel with her through the social concerns and political issues that have dominated the news cycles and engaged her as an artist-activist over the past decade. I have been an observer of and advocate for her work for close to sixty years; for me, this exhibition represents a moment in which both the formal innovation in her work and the power of her worldview as an artist have come full circle. In these shaped and carved totemic paintings, all on a common plywood ground, I recognize a bringing together of key aspects of the artist’s radically experimental intaglio printmaking of the 1960s with the stylistic elements of her later paintings that evolved out of imagery in her travel sketchbooks. Together these give aesthetic form to the artist’s deep concern for the present state of humanity.

“[These] totem works communicate resonant emotional experiences through a powerful use of color; a vigorous painted line outlining strong patterns; and the directional texture of router-carved, paint-filled surfaces that, rather than traditional perspective, create and organize shallow abstract spaces that are filled with fragmentary figures and mask-like faces embodying the sociopolitical intention of the totem.

“An artist of great skill and immense empathy, LaDuke has used the indefatigable power of her optimism to do battle with inhumanity, its violence and anger, its horror and injustice. We celebrate

Betty LaDuke’s totems as resilient symbols of human joy and sorrow —affirmations of humility and strength — as they give form to the dignity, struggles, and aspirations of the people.”

– Bruce Guenther, Fine Arts Consultant, Independent Curator

“This show is a miracle, a small act of radical wisdom, funny and brave and tender, a sensory meditation on what we have lived through and what we have learned.”

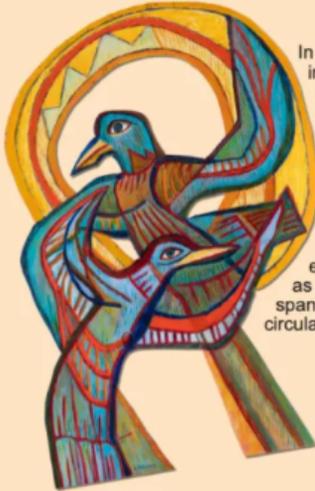
– Beth Russell, Managing Editor CALYX, a journal of art & literature by women

“LaDuke’s work speaks to unimaginable hardships and difficult choices. It also speaks to joy, finding commonality across cultures, and the importance of community and love. This exhibition invites you to explore these themes on your own terms, and to draw your own connections.”- Jessica Hougen, Executive Director, Corvallis Museum



## Seagulls Social Distancing

I sketched seagulls along the Oregon coast as they soared and dove against a setting sun. I never imagined these sketches would become a symbolic catalyst for my current art work about our new reality, the Corona virus pandemic and the necessity for social distancing: six feet apart and wearing a mask.



In early March 2020, in my Ashland studio, I began with paintbrush and paint to roughly capture seagull's energy on the rough surface of three plywood panels. They completely filled each 2' by 3' panel as their wings spanned across the circular curves of the sun.

**We Are Thinking About It**

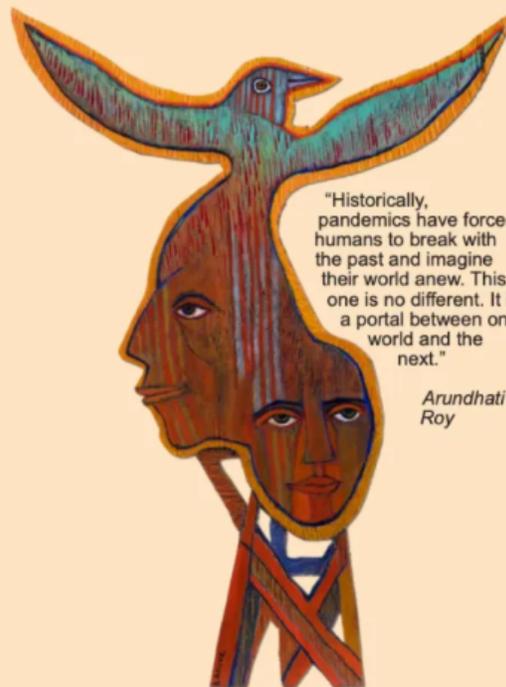


Feeding seagulls with layers of paint became my passion. That was my daily work process. Developing these diverse seagull forms also helped me cope with the anxieties and uncertainty we all share, nationally, and globally.

**Social Distancing Solitude**



**We Really Don't Care**

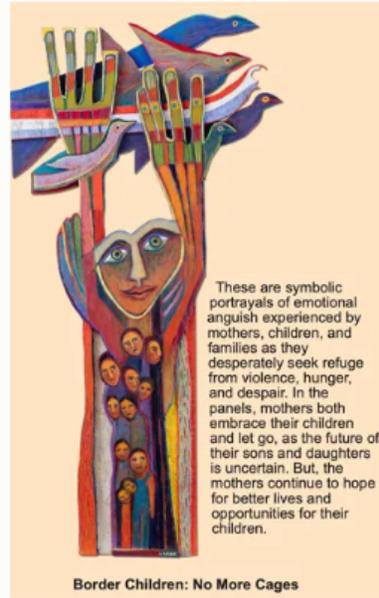
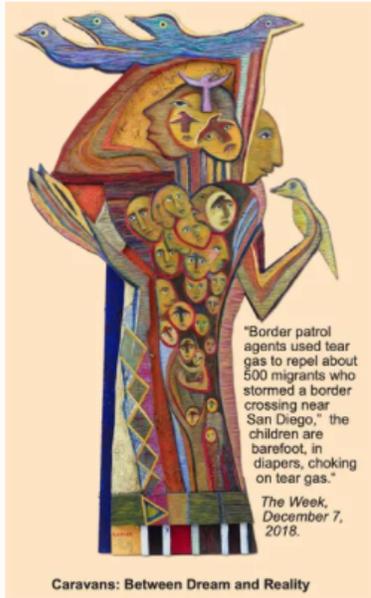
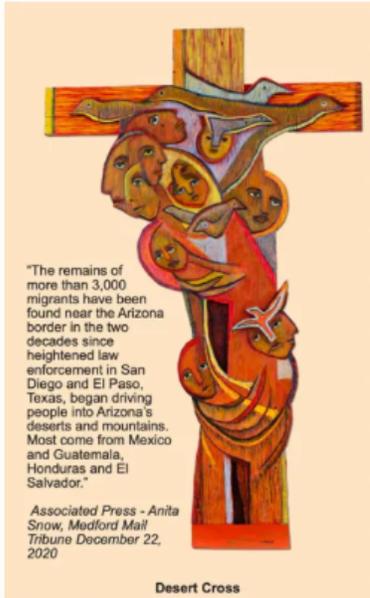


"Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal between one world and the next."

Arundhati Roy

**This Too Shall Pass**

# Border Crossings



# Turtle Wisdom



Turtle Love Supreme



Turtle Hope

“Turtles symbolically evolved as a personal necessity to affirm life’s continuity. Turtles remind us of the choices we can make to protect life and to honor Mother Earth.” – **Betty LaDuke**



Turtle Dreams



Turtle Water Protector



Turtle Heirloom Seed Protector



“I consider my current panels a combination of media inspired by decades of work as a painter painting large canvases on cultural themes and as a printmaker. I created many woodblock prints, as well as etchings, by cutting and shaping zinc plates. Shaped forms have always been my preference, and they are now combining my experiences of both a painter and printmaker.” – **Betty LaDuke, 2022**

# FIRE, FURY, & RESILIENCE

BETTY LADUKE AT GRANTS PASS MUSEUM OF ART



BY LYNN LEISSLER



PROVIDED BY GRANTS PASS MUSEUM OF ART

*JUST TAKE YOUR TIME. BLINK. SIGH. RELAX.*  
- LAWSON FUSAO INADA

NECK OF THE WOODS | art



**READ REVIEW ONLINE**

Southern Oregon Magazine

Spring 2022

For Exhibit Information Contact:

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(541) 482-4562

### **Current Exhibit Schedule**

Grants Pass Museum of Art — 2022

Corvallis Museum, Corvallis, OR — 2022-2023

Coos Art Museum, Coos Bay, OR — 2023

Bergen Community College, Paramus, NJ — 2024

Rancho Cordova Art Center, Rancho Cordova, CA — 2024

[Download Exhibition Catalogue](#)