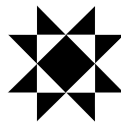


# Natural Patterns

**Cyanotyping, Quilting, and the Preservation of Land and Memory**

## **Appendix A: Documentation of work**



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Honors Thesis

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# *Natural Patterns: Cyanotyping, Quilting, and the Preservation of Land and Memory*

2025 Honors Thesis

Memory holds power, and our duty is to preserve and honor what we cherish. This honors thesis explores the intersection of cyanotyping and quilt making as a means of addressing environmental awareness and preservation. Drawing from historical figures such as Anna Atkins, whose cyanotypes documented botanical species, and the legacy of Gee’s Bend quilters, I seek to commemorate both personal and collective histories. By employing the historical cyanotype photographic process, these four quilts capture the fleeting nature of four of Colorado's diverse ecosystems—prairie grasslands, rivers and lakes, Rocky Mountains, and the urban environment—preserving their biodiversity while raising questions about human impact. Ultimately, this thesis asks how art can foster a deeper, more ethical relationship with the land, while encouraging reflection on environmental responsibility through the lens of memory.

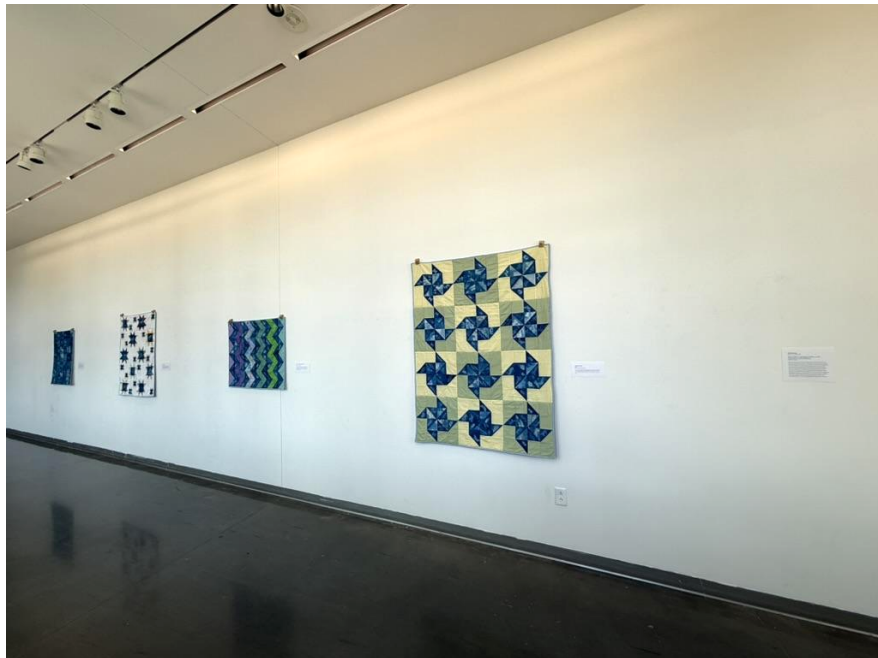


Figure 1: Install shot for *Natural Patterns: Cyanotyping, Quilting, and the Preservation of Land and Memory*



Figure 2: Install shot for *Natural Patterns: Cyanotyping, Quilting, and the Preservation of Land and Memory*

## *Prairie Pinwheels*

2025

Cyanotyped cotton, patterned fabric

This memory quilt captures 48 native species of plants, insects, birds, and mammals native to eastern Colorado's vast prairie grasslands. A pinwheel design evokes wind and movement, while clouds, flora, and fauna native to the region form a symbolic crest.



Figure 3: *Prairie Pinwheels* memory quilt with cyanotyped cotton and patterned fabric, 45 ¼" x 60 ¼"



Figure 4: Top left corner of *Prairie Pinwheels*

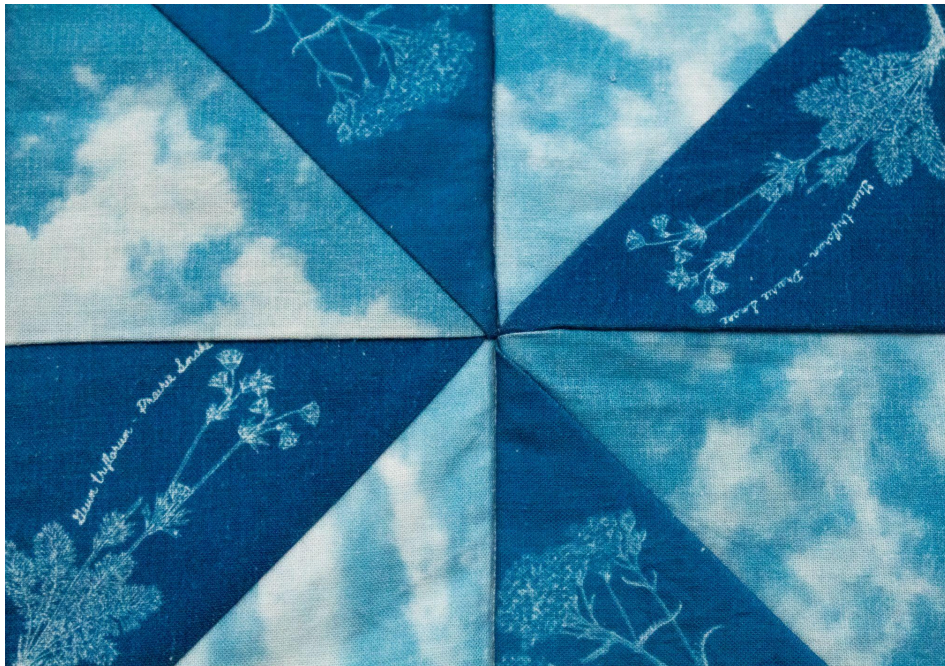


Figure 5: Detail shot of *Prairie Pinwheels*



Figure 6: Detail shot of *Prairie Pinwheels*



Figure 7: Detail shot of *Prairie Pinwheels*

## *Chevron Currents of Rivers and Lakes*

2025

Cyanotyped cotton, patterned fabric

Reflecting the essential role Colorado's rivers and lakes play in sustaining life, 40 species of aquatic life form a dynamic, waterfall-like pattern. The flowing chevron design symbolizes the movement of water, while vibrant colors mimic plant life and iridescent fish scales, maps of local rivers evoke the interconnected ecosystems nourished by these waterways.



Figure 8: *Chevron Currents of Rivers and Lakes* memory quilt with cyanotyped cotton and patterned fabric, 37" x 30 1/2"

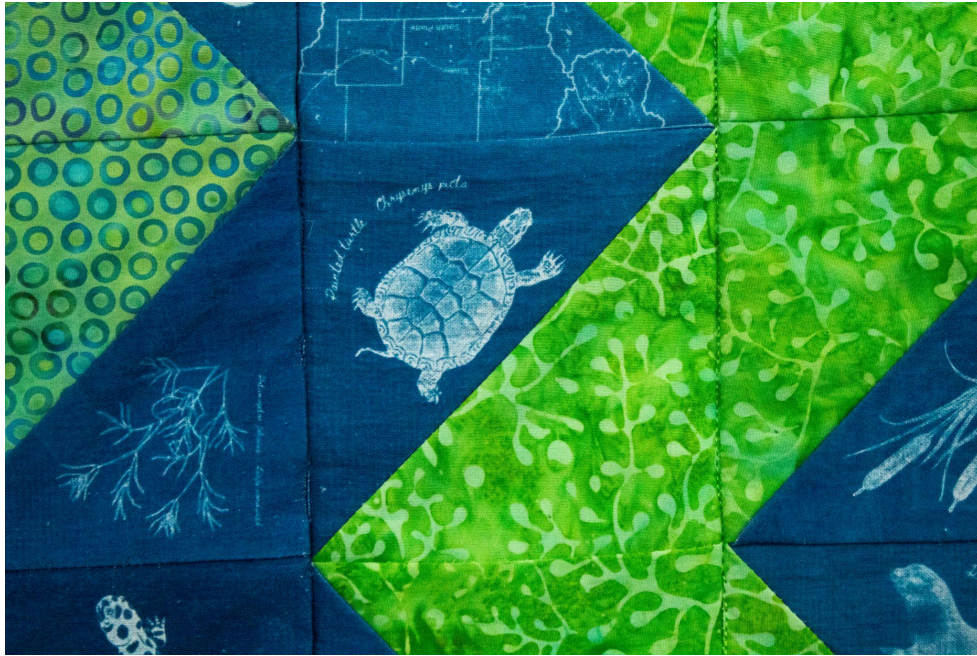


Figure 9: Detail shot of *Chevron Currents of Rivers and Lakes*



Figure 10: Detail shot of *Chevron Currents of Rivers and Lakes*



## *Rocky Mountain Stars*

2025

Cyanotyped cotton, patterned fabric

The Rocky Mountains are Colorado's iconic range, renowned for their towering snowy peaks and expansive alpine landscapes. The sawtooth star quilt blocks evoke the crisp, clear nights spent stargazing in the Rockies. With 25 species selected from this diverse ecosystem, the quilt honors the profound role the mountains play in shaping Colorado's identity, communities, and connection to the land.



Figure 13: *Rocky Mountain Stars* memory quilt with cyanotyped cotton and patterned fabric, 37 ¼" x 46"



Figure 14: Detail shot of *Rocky Mountain Stars*



Figure 15: Detail shot of *Rocky Mountain Stars*



Figure 16: Detail shot of *Rocky Mountain Stars*



Figure 17: Detail shot of *Rocky Mountain Stars*

## *Urban Patchwork*

2025

Cyanotyped cotton, patterned fabric

The urban ecosystem, though often overlooked, plays a vital role in Colorado's environmental and social fabric, supporting diverse communities and ecosystems through neighborhoods and parks. This patchwork memory quilt reflects the everyday landscapes of Colorado, symbolizing the spaces we inhabit and the connection between natural and man-made environments. Featuring 21 species integral to our urban ecosystems, this quilt emphasizes the importance of community, heritage, and the interwoven relationships that sustain both people and nature as Colorado's urban spaces continue to grow.



Figure 18: *Urban Patchwork* memory quilt with cyanotyped cotton and patterned fabric, 32" x 36 1/2"



Figure 19: Detail shot of *Urban Patchwork*



Figure 20: Detail shot of *Urban Patchwork*



Figure 21: Detail shot of *Urban Patchwork*



Figure 22: Detail Shot of *Urban Patchwork*



Figure 23: Detail shot of *Urban Patchwork*

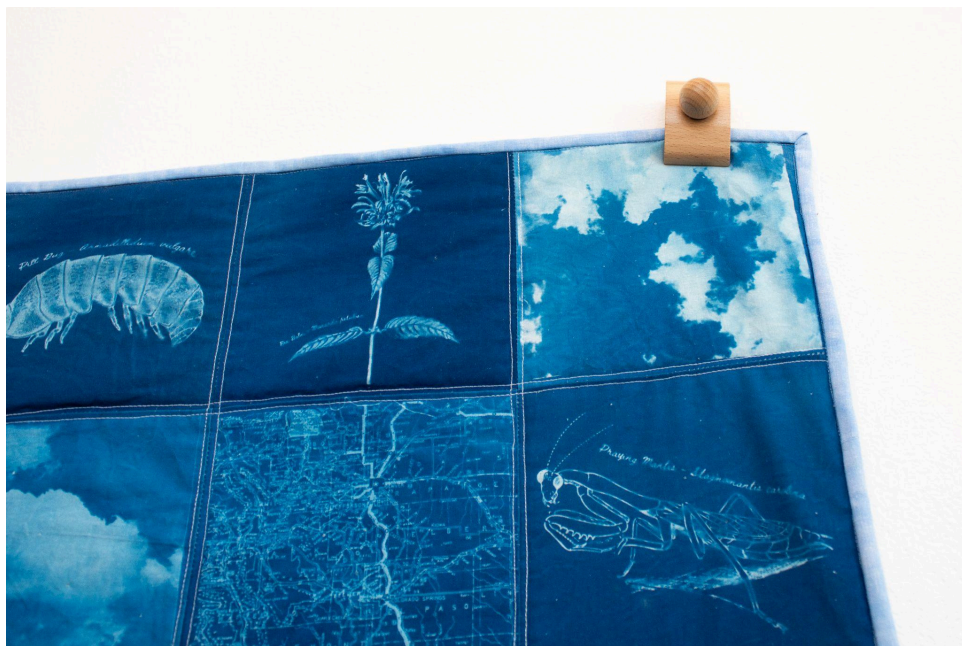


Figure 24: Detail shot of *Urban Patchwork*