

Name: Margaret Bell Synan

Quilt Name: **Mudflats**

Dimensions: 20” wide by 16” high

Artist Statement

The inspirations for this piece came from an olive and teal-colored piece of fabric and my memories of the Everglades in Florida. The fabric reminded me of tidal basins, so it was my point of departure for the piece.

On a trip in 2015 to the Florida Everglades State Park I visited the nature center. The alligators were in a curving waterway in front of the center, several feet below the viewing platform. They were large, black, and rolling around together, at one with their mud-filled environment.

In their natural habitat alligators live in tidal basins or “mudflats”. In addition to the alligators this ecosystem supports a number of bird species, including blue herons, egrets and other wading birds. Alligators and herons are interdependent upon each other. Alligators keep raccoons away from heron eggs, although they will eat the eggs and the herons when given an opportunity. Raccoons will destroy an entire heron breeding ground if permitted to do it, so the alligators are both a protector and predator to the herons.

The heron in this piece is an animal making a sacrifice. This time she flies to escape the alligator but sacrifices some of her eggs as she leaves them. She will return to them later because she is saving her own life now.