

2011 Viewers' Choice Award

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Earth: Our Home Planet

Anita Payne, Stratford, ON, 2011

24" x 24" sphere

Medium & Techniques: Velvet, satins, dress fabrics, rayon and metallic threads; machine appliqué/quilting

Inspiration & Credits: Several globes and a large number of maps, mostly from National Geographic served as references.

Planet Earth sustains life because of an amazing balancing act. Not too close and not too far from the Sun, the Earth is the perfect temperature to have liquid water. The Sun provides energy but the ozone layer protects us from too much UV radiation. Earth's magnetic field protects our atmosphere from being blown away by solar winds. The atmosphere is a delicate balance of gases. There is enough oxygen to sustain life, but not enough to make air flammable. Carbon dioxide nourishes plants and holds in the Sun's heat; too much will kill all life. Let's maintain the balance!