



***In response to Kiyomi Baird***

*Global Warming*

***Fire!***

I painted the New Mexico Los Conchas Fire from the end of my driveway. I could see flames reaching into the sky high above the Jemez Mountain Range. The first painting was a plume of fire in yellows, oranges, fleeing white clouds against blue sky streaked with gray smoke.

The second painting is titled, "The Tree Knows the Fire Is Coming." The tree, a pinion pine, stands alone in a green field but behind it is a horizon of fire. I cannot hear it but I know the fire roars and grumbles as it comes down the mountain and the tree shivers, pouring its life underground to its roots. The tree surrenders its needles and cones, branches and twigs, and finally, its trunk.

The third painting is the smoke rising above the city of Santa Fe. The smoke is in three columns like spectral genies. I expect them to grant wishes or throw curses on us so far below them. They dwarf the Jemez Mountains and the city is so small beneath.

The largest fire in New Mexico history nearly burned Los Alamos where we have stored and created a fire which could destroy the Earth with, oddly, a nuclear winter. Not the end in fire, but in darkness.

**Patricia A. Murphy**

Roaming Writers



Kiyomi Baird, *Global Warming*, encaustic, gold leaf, on cradled wood panel, 12 x 12 inches