



OREGON ARTSWATCH

ARTS & CULTURE NEWS

FIRE, FURY, & RESILIENCE. Longtime Southern Oregon artist **Betty LaDuke**'s most recent show is on view through May 20 at the **Grants Pass Museum of Art**, and it looks like a good one. The pieces are all mixed media on wood, which she paints in vibrant colors and cuts into curving, frame-defying shapes that wriggle with life.

Titled *Fire, Fury, & Resilience: Totem Witnesses and Turtle Wisdom*, the exhibit is a continuation of LaDuke's decades-long exploration of topics ranging from climate change to border policies and social issues, often rising from her experiences traveling from village to village in places from Africa to Borneo to Mexico to the farm fields of Oregon, focusing on women's work around the world.



Mixed media on wood paintings by Betty LaDuke at the Grants Pass Museum of Art through May 20. Photo courtesy GPMA

LaDuke, who was born in the Bronx in 1933 and has lived and worked in Ashland for decades (and whose daughter is the noted activist [Winona LaDuke](#)), talks about her life and work in this excellent Oregon ArtBeat interview from Oregon Public Broadcasting, below. In it, she discusses her turn to symbolic and personal approaches to her art – “it breaks every rule I learned in school” – and about the process of creating: “Paintings evolve. They’re like children. They grow up. Very seldom (do) you get something that’s mature right away. It takes a growing and living with it and thinking about it. It allows me room to breathe with it and to evolve.”

She’ll be at the Grants Pass museum 5-8 p.m. Friday, May 6, to take part in the First Friday Art Stroll.

