

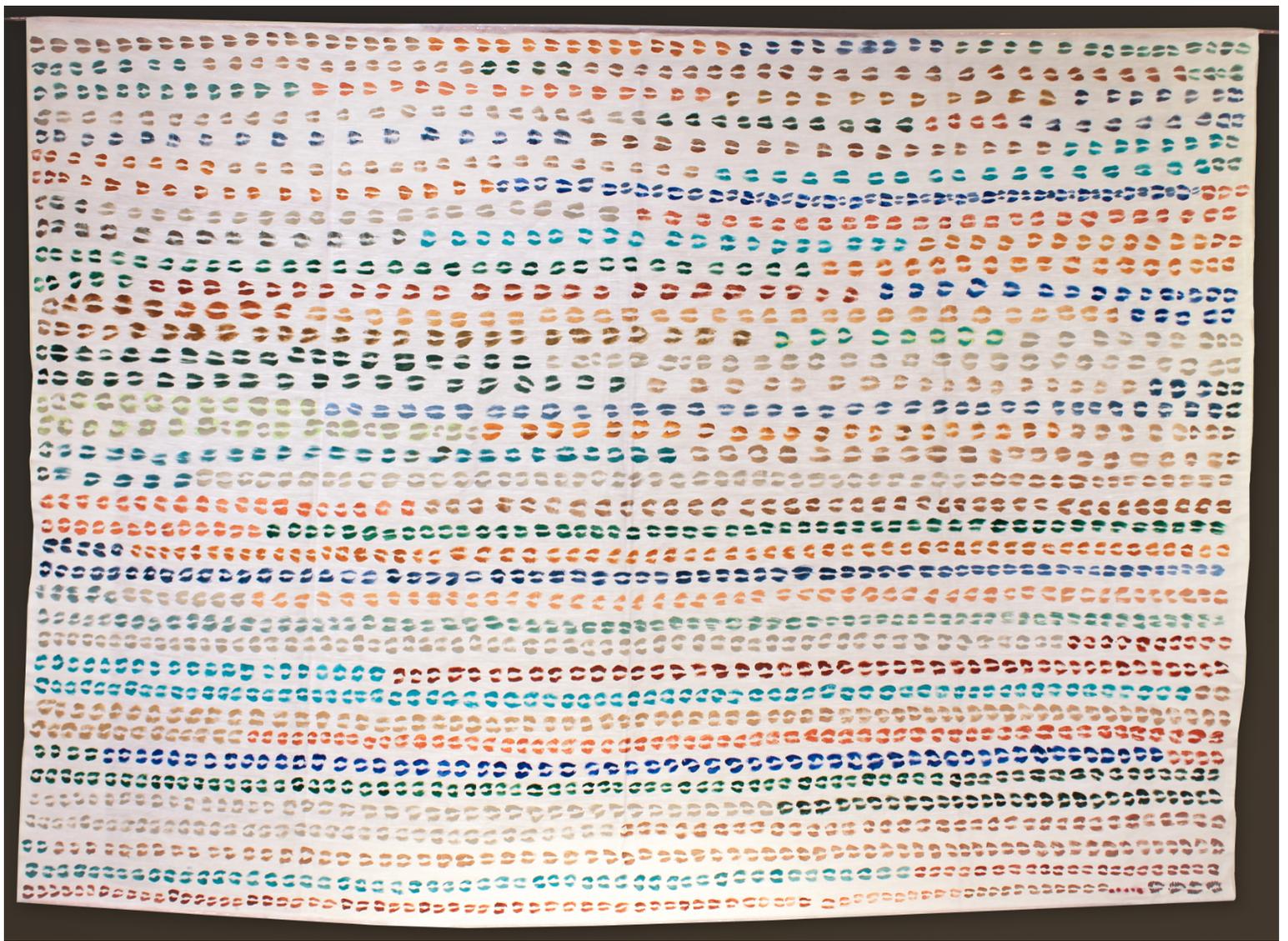
I AM BISON

A Patty Swygert Exhibition



Presented by the





***Hoof*, 2020**

Painted, hand-embroidered, and hand stitched with repurposed linen, acrylic paint, and thread

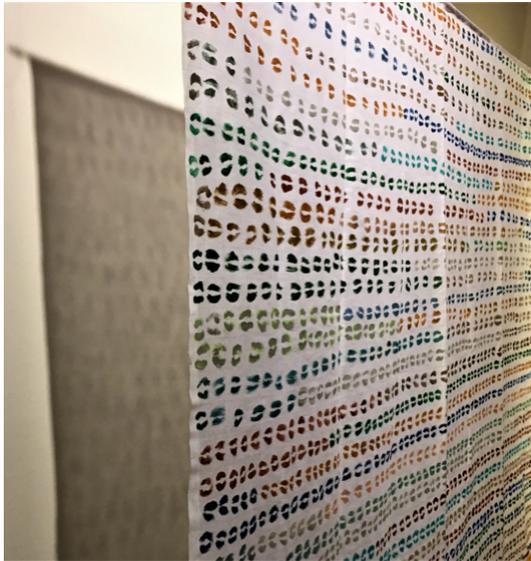
37.5" h x 52.5" w

\$1800

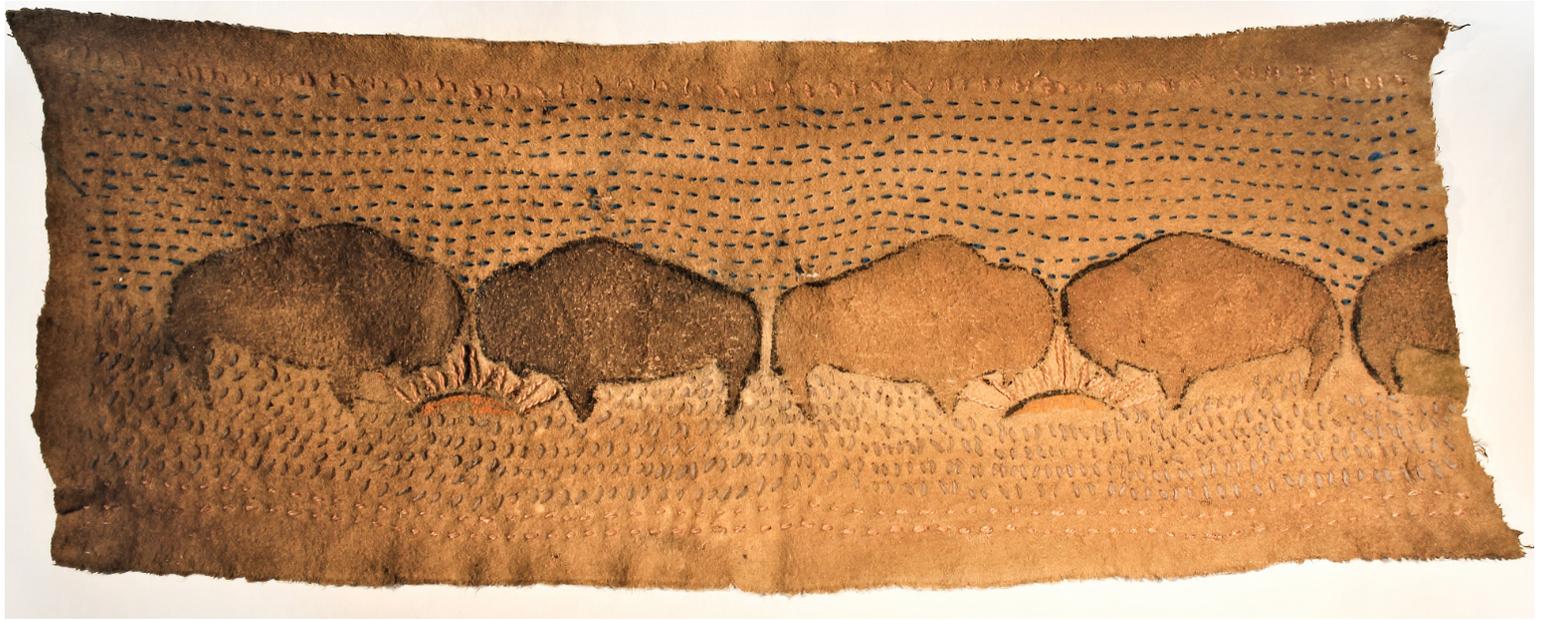
About Hoof

Tens of thousands of years ago, ancestors of the bison crossed from Asia to North America where they found a habitat uniquely suited to their needs. Over time, they crossed water, mountains, and vast plains and endured extreme weather conditions, adapting and expanding their range to modern-day Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

Even after the later arrival of the first North Americans, vast herds of bison continued to flourish. They sustained human inhabitants with their hide, flesh, bones, organs, and dung for thousands of years. This was all to change with the arrival of Europeans. Within 250 years, the species was nearly exterminated. Some mourned the loss of the bison's hoof beats and began breeding programs with those held in captivity and the few surviving in Yellowstone. Because of these efforts, bison are again flourishing in North America, and we are no longer limited to the shadows of their hooves on the landscape.



I wanted to capture the marks millions of bison left on our landscape and lives. By painting hooves on sheer linen with a semi-opaque paint and hanging the piece away from a wall, I was able to cast faint shadows of the bison hooves roaming the continent. These shadows represent the memory of millions of bison which once roamed the continent and honor the forward-thinking individuals who were able, against great odds, to rebuild the herds.



Head-to-Head Brown, 2020

11" h x 31" w

Felted, painted, hand-dyed, and hand-embroidered with repurposed cashmere, soil, repurposed yarn, walnut ink, earth pigments, and SUMA ink

\$650

Using soil collected from locations in the West and Virginia, as well as earth pigments, I painted and felted repurposed cashmere and yarns, much like the saviors of the bison patched together the species from the few remaining bison found in zoos, circuses, and protected wild areas.



Head-to-Head Blue, 2020

11" h x 31" w

Felted, painted, hand-dyed, and hand-embroidered with repurposed cashmere, soil, repurposed yarn, walnut ink, earth pigments, and SUMA ink

\$650

Using soil collected from locations in the West and Virginia, as well as earth pigments, I painted and felted repurposed cashmere and yarns, much like the saviors of the bison patched together the species from the few remaining bison found in zoos, circuses, and protected wild areas.



***Stitched*, 2020**

18" h x 21" w x 18" d

Stitched, wired, and painted with repurposed leather, thread, string, earth pigments, acrylic paint, bison teeth, found objects, and wire

\$1800

By cutting, repurposing, dyeing, painting, and stitching aged repurposed leather, I sought to give symbolic purpose to the loss of millions of bison during the late 1800s and honor those who pieced together the species from a few remaining animals.



Found, 2020

13" h x 11" w x 11" d

Painted, dyed, and burned gourd, bison scapula, paint, earth pigments, walnut ink, and dye

I have long been fascinated by cave paintings, pictographs, and ancient stone carvings. I created this from a gourd I rescued over 30 years ago, as a way to recognize the early artists who captured the likeness of free-roaming bison on stones, hides, cave walls, and other objects.

\$1250



Coronation, 2020

16" h x 18" w x 18" d

Sun-bleached, wired, wrapped and stitched bison jaw bones, found string, thread, yarn, and wire

\$1600

I assembled this non-functional vessel to honor the millions of bison bones left on the plains during the extermination in the late 1800s.



Bison Point of View
(six panels), 2020

Each panel approx.
7' h x 30.5" w

Drawn and hand-
sewn using
repurposed sheer
fabric, pastel,
charcoal, graphite,
dye, acrylic, and
thread

\$7200

When I learned about
the story of the
bison's decimation
from millions to less
than 1000 in just a
few decades, I sought
to tell their story
without words.

About *Bison Point of View*

Bison Point of View charts the history of wild bison on the continent, from the millions which roamed the vast lands of what are now Canada, the United States, and Mexico, to their near extermination and the eventual rebuilding of herds.



Panel 1 represents the period from bison first crossed into North American until the arrival of the first human inhabitants.



Panel 2 represents the loss of the herds east of the Mississippi soon after arrival of Europeans between 1600 and 1750.



Panel 3 represents the loss of various herds west of the Mississippi beginning in the early 1800s.



Panel 4 represents the slaughter of entire herds as European settlers moved westward in the late 1800s.

Panel 5 represents the near extermination of the entire species.



Panel 6 shows the rebuilding of the species from animals kept in zoos, circuses, and the few found wild.



Contrast Dark and Light (diptych), 2020

64.5" h x 17.5-18" w

Appliquéd and hand-stitched cotton organdy, silk, acrylic and felted repurposed wool

\$1100 each

In this piece I present two aspects of bison: the opaque and dark and the sheer and light. The dark, opaque bison silhouettes on the landscape contrast with sheer and light, which represents how bison almost faded out as a species, but have been restored and flourish again.



***Wheel of Life*, 2020**

36" h x 29" w

Felted, hand-dyed, and hand-embroidered repurposed wool, soil, earth pigments, repurposed yarn, walnut ink, and SUMA ink

\$1300

A vintage blanket I saved for 40 years found new purpose as the background for this piece. Using soil gathered from areas in the West where the bison freely roamed, earth pigments, handmade walnut ink, and found yarn, I created 6 bison in sections on a wheel. The wheel symbolizes eternal life, and both the extant and extinct bison of North America. The wheel also represents the literal wheels of "progress" which brought Europeans to the bison's habitat, and led to their decimation.



***Cocoon*, 2020**

18" h x 5" w x 6" d

Concrete-dipped and hand-sewn fabric, concrete, bison bones, walnut ink, soil, and thread

\$800

The mass slaughter of the bison left millions of bison bones strewn across the plains, sun-dried and wasted. This piece captures modern sun-bleached bison bones recovered from the Virginia Bison Company at Cibola Farm, and nests them in a protective cocoon of fabric, thread, and concrete, symbolizing protection and rebirth for our modern-day herds.



***Shard*, 2020**

13" h x 15" w x 9" d

Concrete-dipped, painted, and hand-sewn repurposed fabric, cheesecloth, concrete, bison scapula, yarn, and thread

\$1200

This delicate vessel reflects the seemingly impossible task faced by the guardians and protectors of the bison in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Without their foresight and determination, we would only know bison through recovered skeletons, paintings, drawings, taxidermy specimens, and perhaps a few surviving in zoos.



Traces (two pieces), 2020

24.5" h x 151" w and 24.5" h x 30.5" w

Hand-dyed, hand-stitched, and drawn cotton organdy, repurposed silk, silk organza, thread, and ink

\$4200

About *Traces*

We know relatively little about the history of the bison and their influence on the continent during the thousands of decades that they have lived in North America. Fossils and other discoveries only give us an approximation and a glimpse of how the bison lived. I created *Traces* to illustrate how there are entire centuries for which humans have little or no information about bison. What we know about bison before the arrival of Europeans is based on a small number of data points. I stitched these data points into the vast time lines of the bison on the continent, suggesting that there is still much to learn about North America's largest land mammal.



***Herd*, 2019**

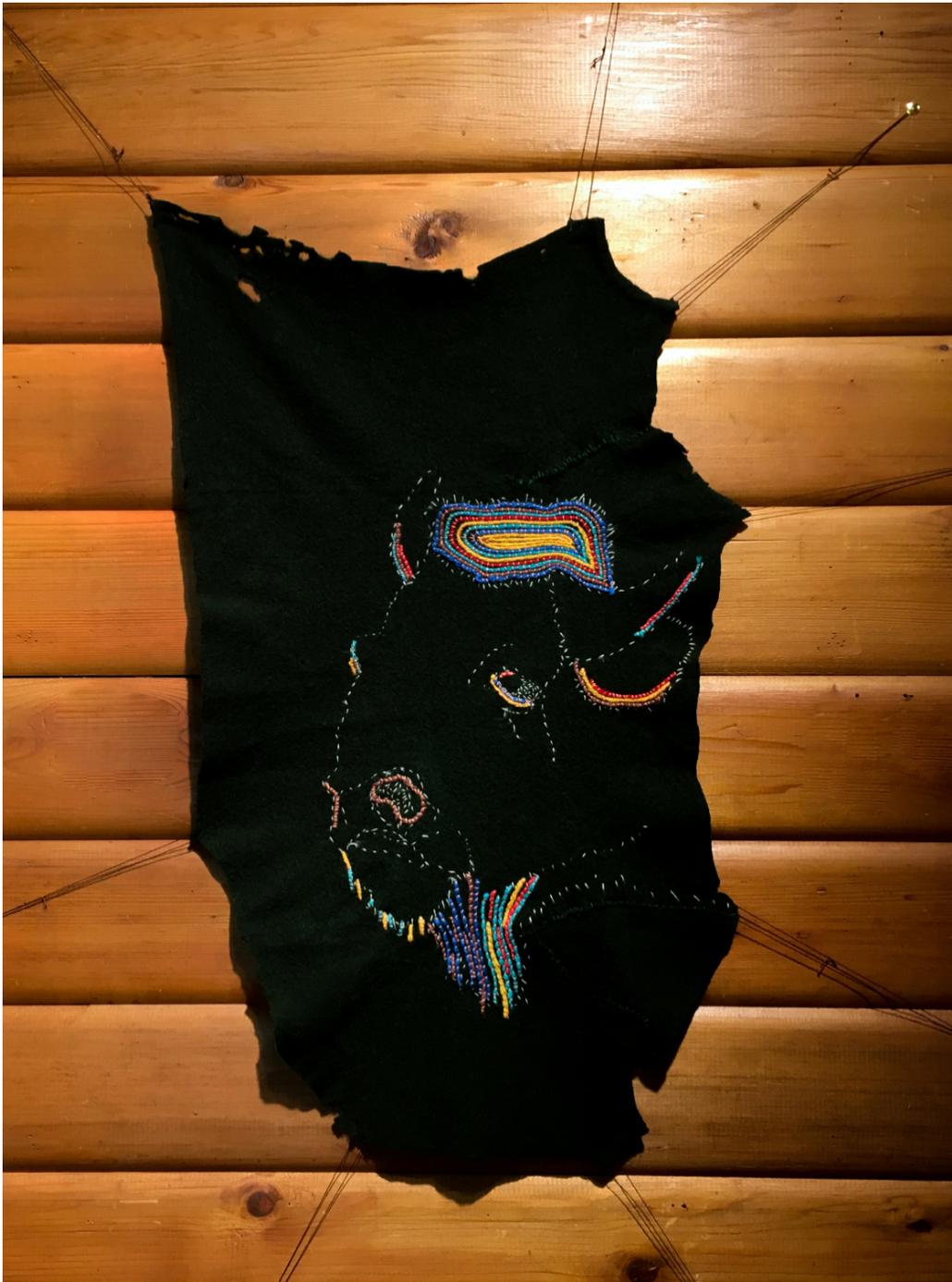
42" h x 11" w

Drawn on repurposed sheer fabric
with pastels, sealer

\$350

This piece is a study for the 6-panel
Bison Point of View. A study is a
drawing, sketch or painting done in
preparation for a finished piece.





Rainbow Bison,
2020

30" h x 16" w

Felted, hand-embroidered and couched with repurposed wool, found yarn, and thread

\$650

Using a repurposed wool sweater, which I stretched like a drying hide, I was able to impart a touch of whimsy to the mighty buffalo.

Cow Calf, 2020

29" h x 11" w

Hand-dyed, laminated, and
drawn with cheesecloth,
glassine, and SUMA ink

\$525

With this diminutive pen
and ink, I sought to explore
modern day bison grazing
the lands they once
roamed in larger numbers.





Profile Bison, 2020

17" h x 17" w

Hand-dyed, laminated, and drawn with cheesecloth, glassine, and SUMA ink

\$525

With this diminutive pen and ink, I sought to explore a majestic modern-day bison.



Bison in Miniature,
2020

22" h x 14.5" w

Felted, hand-dyed and hand-embroidered with repurposed cashmere and wool, Japanese persimmon dye, and repurposed yarn

\$850

This piece began as an experiment in using Japanese persimmon dye and grew to honor the bison's prehistoric Asian ancestors. First one piece of wool was added, then another. Hand stitching holds it together.



Bison Herd, 2020

19" h x 36" w

Digitally altered photograph, printed on fabric, hand-dyed with walnut ink and dye and hand-stitched with thread

\$850

This piece began as a photograph I took of the breeding herd at Cibola Farms in Culpeper, VA, where bison freely roamed in the past, and not far from where bison were kept in captivity in the 1700s. I altered the photo and had it digitally printed. I then dyed it multiple times, added batting and a backing and stitched the piece by hand.



***Alone*, 2020**

20" h x 30" w

Hand-dyed, painted, and hand-stitched with repurposed fabric, cheesecloth, dye, watercolor, gouache, acrylic, repurposed yarn, and thread

\$850

This piece reflects a lone bison on her journey to rejoin her herd.



Cadeau 1 (Teeth), 2020

1.5" h x 3.5" w x 1" d

Wrapped and glued bison tooth,
dichroic film, and thread

\$275

Cadeau 2 (Bone Amulet), 2020

8" h x 2" w x 1" d

Wrapped, drilled, and glued bison
bone, dichroic film, and thread

\$300





Cadeau 3 (Bark Amulet), 2020

12" w x 2" h x 1.5" d

Wrapped, stiffened, and glued bark, bison tooth, dichroic film, stiffener, dye, and thread

\$300

Cadeau 4 (Eroded Bone), 2020

3" h x 3.5" w x 2.75" d

Wrapped and glued bison bone, dichroic film, and thread

\$300





***Cadeau 5 (Stick and Bone)*, 2020**

9" w x 4" h x 1.5" d

Wrapped, drilled, and glued bison bone, bison tooth, stick, dichroic film, and thread

\$275

The *Cadeau* series was created to honor the bison bones that were strewn over the plains during the near extermination. The wrapped thread was used as a way to symbolically protect the bones and the dichroic film to show how precious they are. The dichroic film was chosen for its ability to reflect light and color.