



Digital Batiks by Francine Dufour Jones
(Available at Virtu Gallery in Anchorage, Alaska)

My First Responses to the Great Land

Batik is an art form, traditionally done on fabric using hot wax and dye, which gives the image a crackled look.

This series of photographs synthesizes my love of [silk painting](#), digital art, and photography with my experience as an artist new to the majesty of Alaska.

For most of my adult life I have lived in California and Hawaii. While living on Kauai I always felt protected by the spirit of *Mother Kauai*. Even when I was taken far off shore while wind surfing I was held in *Her* embrace.

In July of 2007 my husband, Ken, and I were married at sunset on a grassy height overlooking the Pacific Ocean. We returned to Alaska and spent part of our honeymoon in Halibut Cove, across Katchemak Bay from Homer.

The profoundly sensuous impressions of the *Spirit* and power of Alaska overwhelmed me. I slept for most of the first forty-eight hours of our sojourn. My artist soul needed time to inhale the magnificence of the country, and become acclimated to this vast spiritual space called Alaska.

These photographic impressions are among my first in my new home. They express the delight and surprise; the pleasure and awe I feel now, being lovingly embraced by the masculine energy and *Spirit* of the Great Land.

I have chosen to use some of the animals I have met to express the connection I feel between the *Spirit* of this space, and those of us who call Alaska *home*.

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