

Off the wall

The stories behind the art

The Scene
March 30, 2006

Patricia Cole

CITY: Bloomington

BIO HIGHLIGHTS: Patricia Cole is a painter and art educator who moved to the United States at age 3 from Ireland. She was admitted to the bachelor of fine arts program in painting and drawing at IU, where she worked under Robert Barnes and Barry Gealt. She also studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, and at City College of San Francisco. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in painting, and in 1978, she established a studio and began actively exhibiting and teaching. She won the Andrew Carnegie Prize for Painting at the National Academy of Design, New York City, in 2000; solo exhibits include IU's SoFA Gallery and the Indianapolis Art Center. Cole is adjunct instructor of art history, drawing and design for Ivy Tech Community College in Bloomington and an advocate for art in public places.



Patricia Cole with her ballpoint pen drawing, "Don't Push The River."
David Snodgress | Herald-Times

NAME OF WORK: "Don't Push the River"

DESCRIPTION: "Cross contour drawing; ball point pen on Bristol Paper, 3 x 4 ft."

WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION? "Cole's work deals with issues of dislocation, and the redeeming power of nature, love and relationship. Cole's social activism comes through in the recent drawing, 'Don't Push the River,' a response to the flooding of New Orleans in August 2005."

HOW WAS IT CREATED? "Cross contour drawing; surrealism, or free association, ink, ball point pen."

ANYTHING ELSE? "Much of the flooding of New Orleans could have been prevented; diverting of the Mississippi River, a poor levee system and the destruction of wetlands played an important part in causing the majority of the damage."

WHERE CAN WE SEE IT? "My studio."

HOW MUCH IS IT? \$2,000

INFO: 339-7219, www.patriciacole.net

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