"Pollution – Water" Second Tapestry 2026

I have decided to take my ideas and concepts contained in the tapestry entitled "Pollution – Water" to the next stage. It was whilst weaving the first version that my mind began to see alternatives, greater emphasis on certain areas and incorporating more of man's involvement in the pollution of Mother Earth. We experience such on a daily basis as we move around and succumb to the ever-changing seasonal and climate patterns. The sights and sounds, the aromas, the throw away society, and man's continuing pervasive activities all contribute to the detriment of our natural world. This then is the "rationale" for my second tapestry.



Pollution – Water 2 96 x 63 cm 2026

"I must start with the Sun", which being a constant is giving life to all things. The Earth moves around the Sun and with its power and influence through light and heat begats the daily cycles and the seasons. It is a focal point and from which the shapes, forms and colours of a changing environment develop. The gradual lightening of the sunrise and the demise of the day at sunset are important points in our daily routine. Having experienced these events whilst out at sea, looking out to the far horizons or towards land create many emotions, of the past day and the newness of the dawn and our own vulnerabilities. Coupled with this the constant wave movement emphasis the passage of time and change.

The Sun is visible above the horizon, high in the sky yet the background of the night sky and seas are in the darkness of the unknown. Through the light of the day, we are able to observe pollution in all its many forms. Yet pollution is occurring throughout the day and night.
The juxtaposition of night and day in this tapestry gives emphasis and draws our attention to what is happening.

The sounds of water trickling or tumbling, the gentle murmuring of waves on the shore or the crashing of waves on groynes, and coastal defences are music to my ideas. Along with the sounds of the harbours, of boats and yacht's halyards clanging against their masts amongst the nodding vessels, and the harsh cry of gulls recall many memories. Rubbish, detritus, flotsam and jetsam abound but it is the oil slicks which fascinates me, whether around the gently, dreamy, almost lethargic dance on the moorings or the long streams found on the high seas. Here are shadows and reflections of ropes, of moorings and hawsers, of boats and harbour groins and structures. The waves constantly change patterns and perspectives and none more than the globular, amoebic shapes of oil slicks on wave borne crests. All of this echoes the abundant pollution which indicate and point to the pervasive, insidious characteristics of man's involvement.

"This is man's mark upon the world"

My "oil slick" is highlighted by the Sun which effects colour changes, the consistency of the oil and refracts into a rainbow of colour – lighting up and reflecting on the crests of waves and tidal upheavals. Waves being seemingly random and irregular, for ever moving and dancing indicate change, of direction and intensity echo in the background of my tapestry.

I have found this piece particularly challenging with my "intuitive" approach to colour, texture and form in the "background". I did not follow a pre-planned colour palette but started with a carefully selected tonal scheme which would develop as the weaving progressed. Starting with darks, the shades of night, I responded with appropriate contrast or harmonious tones on the tops of the lozenge shaped weave structure. We see colour in relation to its neighbours, introducing different combinations has opened up new and exciting avenues to explore. By controlling a colour scheme across, upwards and downwards movement, flow and drift is created in the background. The sound of the waves, its reverberations and vibrations become a part of the tapestry. What can you hear?

"The more darkly we look into the depths the more we see."
"Careful listening to the contained sounds, we can hear the Cry of Nature"



Studio view showing "Pollution – Earth" and "Pollution – Water" on Looms.

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