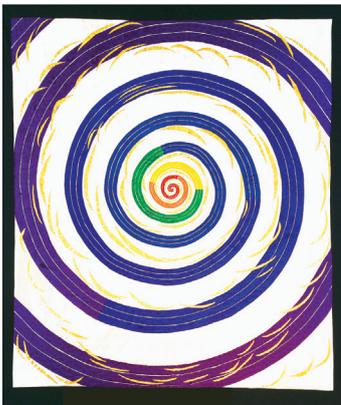




Threads through Creation

BathAbbey

The artist Jacqui Parkinson made these 12 colourful panels telling the story of Creation in the bible. It comes from the book of Genesis, which means 'Beginnings'. It took Jacqui 3 years to make and she used 8 million stitches!



Panel 1

The story starts before anything existed. Jacqui has used a spiral to represent God: as you walk through the exhibition, look out for spirals on all the panels. This spiral has some patterns on it that are almost hidden: they give you a clue about what will appear on later panels. Can you identify four patterns?



Panel 2

Next, the bible story says that God created light out of darkness. Jacqui has made large triangles of white and black to help you imagine light arriving through the dark. At the top and bottom there are rainbow colours. One of the reasons they're included is because white light contains all the colours of the rainbow. What do the colours and patterns made you think or feel?



Panel 3

Next, the bible story says that God created water. How many forms of water can you see, for example, fog?



Panel 4

Next, a green earth was made. This panel is like a big carpet of fruit and vegetables! Look closely. Imagine it's your teatime. Can you choose four things on the panel you'd like to eat?

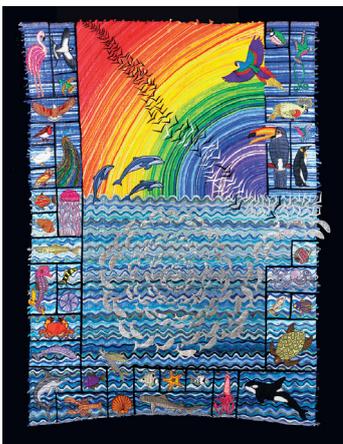


Panel 5

This panel shows the night sky. The bigger the dot, the brighter the star. Can you pick out four bright stars?

Groups of stars in the night sky make up patterns called constellations. Can you see some of these? Look out for

- Orion the archer (with two very bright stars, on the right: tilt your head to see him the right way up)
- the Plough or Big Dipper (it looks a bit like a saucepan)
- Cassiopeia looking like an upside down W
- Cygnus, like a flying swan (top left at about 10 o'clock).



Panel 6

The bible story says that next, God created all the animals in the water and sky. There are a lot of examples here! How many types of animals can you count?

Tick if you can see

- a robin a jellyfish a lobster

Can you name the animals?

A horse that has no legs

A bird with a very large beak

Two birds with very long tails

Jumping fish that aren't fish

Something with arms but no fingers

Which is your favourite bird?

Which is your favourite sea creature?



Panel 7

Here are Adam and Eve alongside the animals. The bible story says they were created by God and given a beautiful home to live in called the Garden of Eden where they could live forever. Look at the insects on the left-hand side. How many can you name?

Tick if you can see

a tadpole a sloth a chameleon a spider a squirrel



Panel 8

The bible story says that God rested on the seventh day and He took time to look at all the work He had done. All the sections of this panel remind us of earlier panels. Which section reminds you of which panel?



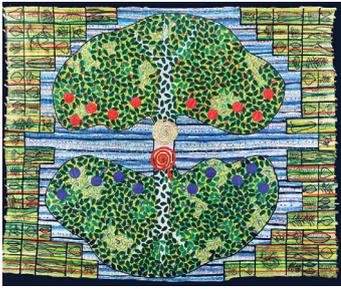
Panel 9

You might think all angels are good, but there have been some bad ones. In the story, Satan was a beautiful angel and one of God's favourites. But he became too proud and decided he wanted to take over in heaven. God and an army of angels threw him out of heaven back down to earth.

Can you see the snake on his back? A snake is often a symbol for Satan or evil. It's a bit unfair on snakes as a lot of them are harmless!

Can you see the angels at the top guarding heaven?

Draw your own version of a snake here:



Panel 10

The beautiful garden of Eden had many trees. The two most important ones were in the middle. They were the tree of knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life. They had two different sorts of fruit and both were magic.

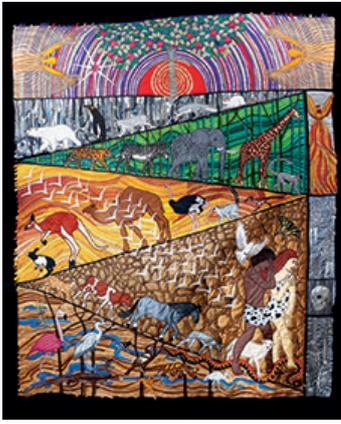
Imagine finding a magic fruit for yourself. Describe what it would look like or draw it.



Panel 11

God told Adam and Eve they could eat anything, except from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. If they did eat fruit from that tree, they would die and not be able to live forever. Satan, the snake, told them not to worry. What do you think they did?

- They ate the fruit They didn't eat the fruit



Panel 12

This shows the end of the story. God was very angry and sad. He told the angels to throw Adam and Eve out of Eden. Life would become very difficult for them. This panel shows a queue of animals leaving Eden as well. Can you name four of them?

How would you feel if you lived in the best place in the world, but were then thrown out?

On this panel are many symbols. A symbol is something that represents something else. Can you find the following symbols:

- Lamb (*Jesus is often called the Lamb of God*)
- Bird by Adam's head (*a dove of peace*)
- Phoenix high up on right (*a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus*)
- Skull (*a symbol of death*)
- Dragonfly (*another symbol of the resurrection*)

Now that you have seen all the panels, choose your favourite part from them all and sketch it here.

Why is it your favourite?

Answers:

1. For example: butterfly, cobweb, flower, star, moon, snowflake, bird, leaf, worm
3. For example: waves, rain, lake, sea, snowflakes, sleet, mist
6. There are 44 kinds of animal.
Names of animals: seahorse, toucan, bird of paradise & peacock, dolphins, octopus
7. gecko, butterfly, beetle, wasp, cricket, woodlouse, spider, ermine moth, bumblebee, shield beetle, dragonfly, ants and flying ant, caterpillar – larva of large white butterfly, ladybird, stag beetle, fly, shield beetle, spider
11. They ate the fruit.
12. white mouse, arctic fox, snow leopard, penguin, polar bear, tiger, zebra, elephant, giraffe, monkey, road runner, lemur, ostrich, camel, kangaroo, rabbit, cat, cow, horse, whippet, lamb, dove, butterfly, swallowtail butterfly (above Adam and Eve's heads), snake, phoenix, egret, tortoise, frog, cormorant, bee, mosquito, alligator, grey heron, flamingo, dragonfly

With acknowledgements and thanks to Jacqui and Andrew Parkinson.

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