



Questor Questions:



GALLERY

about Art Inspired by Nature

at the Tempe Center for the Arts

Alexandra Bowers, *Microcosmic Dandelion*
20"D, wood burned drawing & watercolor



Emily Longbrake, *Somatogenesis III*
20" x 30", mixed media fabric, thread matt board



LOOK carefully at the lines in these artworks. Describe the lines in each. In Alexandra Bowers' work, how are the white lines different from the brown lines? Does Longbrake's work have more white lines or black lines?



Arizona State University's Biomimicry Center describes the TCA's Biomimicry exhibition as "*Genius designs found in nature and some new ideas they have inspired.*"

In the *Arizona Foothills* magazine Nicole Royce writes that Bowers "*adorns unique pieces of wood with intricate hand burned drawings of local **flora, fauna, and animals.***"



COMPARE how Bowers and Longbrake organized the visual elements in their circular artworks? Which artwork has more contrast in **value**? Which artwork has fewer different kinds of lines? Compare the **movement** of the artworks. Which artwork moves your eye to the center? Which artwork moves your eye up and down through the circle?

INTERPRET either Bowers' *Dandelion* or Longbrake's *Somatogenesis III*. What is the artwork saying about nature? Why do you suppose Bowers chose to show a common dandelion (weed)? Why do you think Longbrake chose to show the pattern of snake scales?



LEARN that both Bowers and Longbrake are interested in nature. Bowers grew up in the sprawling Phoenix metropolitan area located in the Sonoran Desert and says "it's easy to forget what exists naturally just beyond our

Finish this sentence: This artwork expresses the idea that nature is:

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- | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| everywhere | adaptable | beautiful |
| complex | inspiring | efficient |
| other | | |

On the back of this paper write an explanation of your interpretation.

backyard walls and **stucco-covered developments.**" The subject matter of her work is a common dandelion. Longbrake was born and raised in Alaska and has lived in California, Oregon, Arizona and South Africa. She has researched the "biological **mechanisms** behind the patterns and forms" of nature, such as snake scales and bird feathers. The subject matter of her work is snake scales. Look again at the two artworks. How does this information about the artists' lives and backgrounds affect what you see in their artworks? Explain.