

**Linda Elizabeth Lillegraven (Thompson) via email to Jennifer Mayer, 9/23/15**

**Birth Year:** 1948--

**Explanation of process and technique:**

“Black Pool, Yellowstone Park” was completed in 2006. It is an oil on Belgian linen canvas (Utrecht type 144) stretched and primed with acrylic gesso by the artist.

**Content of the piece:**

The painting depicts the depths of Black Pool, a large hot spring in the West Thumb area of Yellowstone National Park. The yellow and orange surface on the lower right is cool enough to support thermophiles -- organisms that live in and around hot springs. The blue depths of the pool are an indication that the temperature is too hot even for thermophiles to survive. (The name “Black Pool” is said to come from a time when the water temperature was cool enough to support dark algae). In the painting, the opposite side of the pool can be dimly seen through the ever-present steam that rises from the surface of the hot water.

**Inspiration or intent behind the piece:**

I often paint images of thermal features in Yellowstone National Park. The attraction is not only the aesthetic qualities of hot pools and strange landscapes. All the geysers, fumaroles and hot springs are driven by intense heat from a magma chamber just a few kilometers beneath the surface. The existence of Yellowstone is a reminder that unimaginable forces of nature exist unseen but close by. We should not become too comfortable in our reliance on our man-made world.