

Susie Risho, Missoula, MT

*Hellgate to Bitterroot*, mixed media on paper, 2006

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*Hellgate to Bitterroot* addresses my concerns about the environment and the purity of water below us. Below the Missoula Valley is one of the largest natural aquifers in the Western United States. As Missoulians, we must endeavor to raise our awareness of that which we do not see. The painting is executed in black and white in order to express the starkness and serious approach we must take in order to understand the gravity and importance of our Missoula aquifer. A Missoula geologist stated that it takes one thousand years for the water within the Missoula Valley aquifer to flow from Hellgate Canyon to the Bitterroot River.

