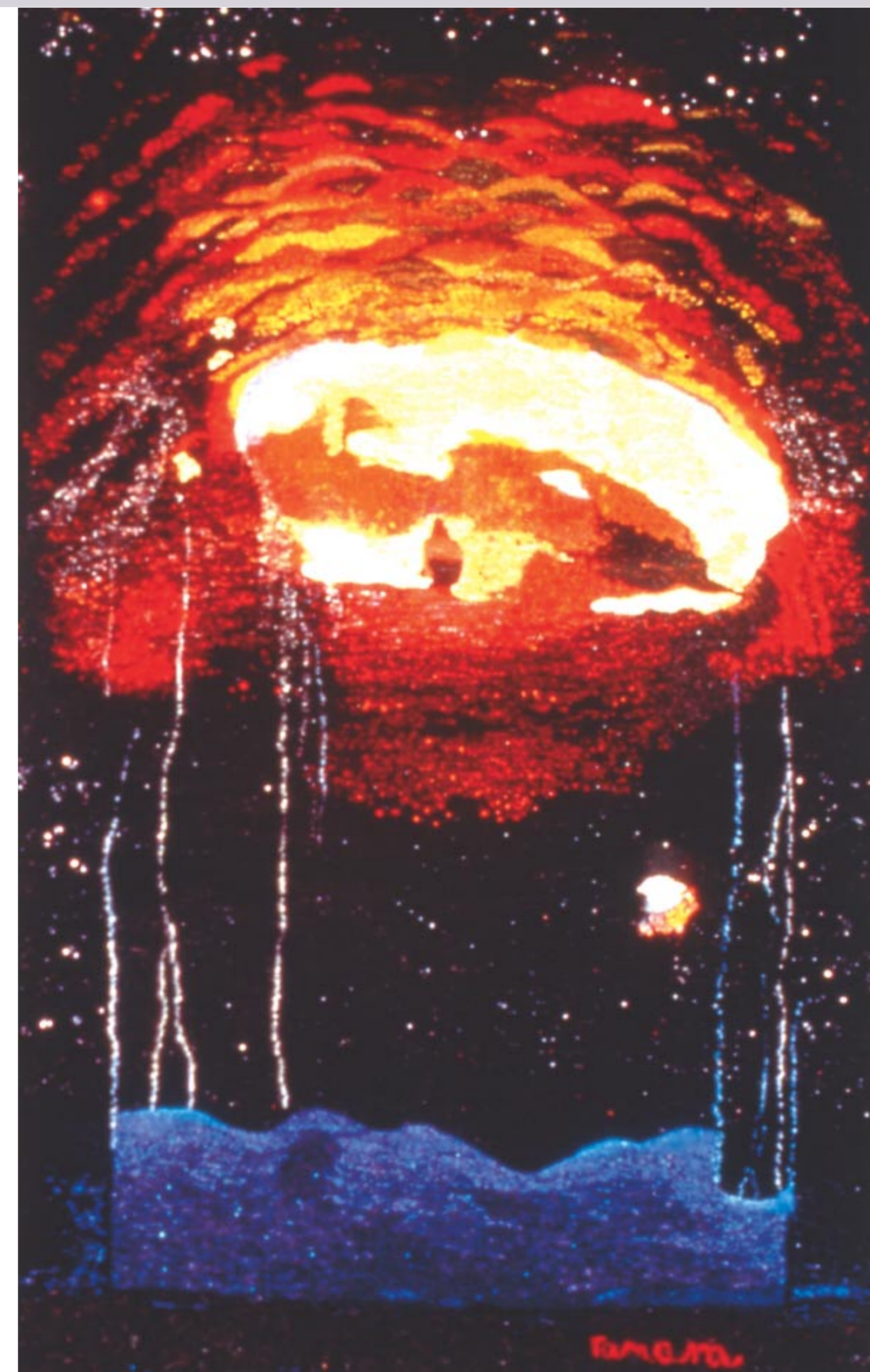


Tamara Jaworska

b. 1926)

Fiber artist and weaver of gobelin tapestries



Tamara is one of Canada's proudest cultural treasures.
Leon Whiteson, art critic and columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*.

In her art, Tamara Jaworska marries the medieval craft of weaving, known as gobelin, with contemporary design. Her visions for tapestries, which she paints on canvas before translating them to tapestry, retain their painterly quality. Jaworska's tapestries are unique, because she not only designs them but also executes them on the looms in her studio.

Jaworska graduated from the Faculty of Design and Weaving of the Academy of Fine Arts in Lodz in 1952, earning a Master of Fine Arts degree.

Studying in postwar Poland, Jaworska entered the artistic scene at a time when there was resurgence in textile arts. In the years 1952-57, she was senior assistant professor and lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts in Lodz. In 1954, she became artistic director of LAD, a state-run arts and crafts cooperative in Warsaw. She immigrated to Toronto in 1969.

Designing both abstract and realistic compositions, Jaworska derives inspiration from nature and the Canadian landscape. In 1971, her *Unity of Canada* tapestry, featuring the official flowers of each province, the Gatineau Hills, the parliament buildings in Ottawa and the Rideau canal, was hung in the Place Bell Canada lobby in Ottawa, and in 1977, she created the *Stream of Life* series for Metropolitan Life's head office in Ottawa.

Exhibitions of her works were widely acclaimed in France, Germany, Spain, Austria, Netherlands, Hungary, Germany, Great Britain, Switzerland, Russia, USA, Poland and Canada.

Her works hang in collections of the Pushkin National Museum in Moscow, National Museum in Warsaw, National Museum of Textile Arts in Lodz, Scottish Art Institute in Galashields. They are also displayed in private collections and public spaces, including Calgary's Gulf Canada Square, as well as Toronto's First Canadian Place and Bank of Montreal Tower.

Jaworska, a long-standing elected member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, is the only North American fiber artist represented by the renowned Galerie Inard, Centre national de la tapisserie d'Aubusson in Paris, France.

Among many honours, in 1993 the artist received the Governor General's commemorative medal and was named a member of the Order of Canada in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Canadian art.

Photos from top left clockwise:
• Tamara Jaworska / Photo – private archives • T. Jaworska – Nocturne (gobelin) • T. Jaworska – Quartet Modern (4 gobelins) at the public space • Part of the exhibition at SOLO Gallery in King City / Photo – Michal Maryniarczyk



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