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Front Cover

Alice Olsen Williams, "Healthy Land, Healthy People," quilt, 14' x 5.66', 2005. Photo: Fred Cattroll, Courtesy Assembly of First Nations. *Please turn to page 201 for more information from the artist about the making of this quilt.*

Alice Williams was born in Trout Lake, 150 miles north of Kenora, in the traditional territory of her mother's people from time before memory. In 1980 she discovered quilting, mastering the techniques which allow her to create the meticulous hand-quilting in her bed coverings and wall hangings. Gradually Alice formed the concepts which would be the basis for her distinctive style and work. Blending her cultural heritage into a unified whole, she envisions the central motif to depict the symbols and themes of Anishinaabe culture, surrounded by the conventional North American quilting blocks and patterns which were developed and continue to be evolved by those women and their descendants who came to this Land from Europe, the legacy of her father's people. Through her understanding of the teachings of the Elders, Alice has created her own Life symbol. She continues to grow as an artist, searching for new ways to express the Spirit of Creation in the images of her designs.