

Turn Here is a Moving Environmental Exhibit at the Gershman Y's Borosky Gallery
Cassandra Woo, Philly Side Arts May 2012 (excerpt)

Artists are lovers of nature that have the innate ability to see both the beauty and ugliness of the world and interpret it in millions of different ways. Without nature, there truly would be a lack of inspiration and artistic expression. What would artists do if they could never see certain species of animals and plants, experience all seasons, or enjoy the majestic preserved parks and natural wonders across the world? The world would be a very bleak place if nature wasn't beautiful.

[Turn Here](#) is an environmental awareness art exhibition at the Gershman Y's Borowsky Gallery that will remind you of all of the reasons why you should make better efforts at being green. This exhibit gave me the motivational boost that I needed to refocus my fruitful efforts.

...Dirt has gotten a bad rap. We see so many commercials all the time for cleaning products that make houses clean and fresh that we associate the word, dirt, with dirty. The sad truth is that without dirt, we couldn't survive. In [Helen Lessick's](#) brochure, Soil Sample Expedition Checklist, she writes: "Soil is sediment, alluvial flows, diatomaceous earth, minerals, limestone, calcium carbonate, shale, oil, precious metals, assorted particulate, and stable and volatile landfills. We walk on it, build with it, eat its products, mine its wealth, and use it to bury our residue and ourselves. Cradle to grave, we make our soil bed and live with it."

Due to the fact that we depend on soil so much, we have destroyed a lot of it in the process. Helen's exhibit helps bring attention to the fact that we need to appreciate dirt. For Helen's collaborative art project, Soil Sample: Kenya, she teamed up with the sustainable development organization, [Kounkuuey Design Initiative](#), and worked with sign painters in Kibera, which is the second largest slum in Africa. The colorful plaques that the painters made promote the benefits of soil. The signs are scheduled to be hung on walls in Kibera's new community center. The photographs of Helen's journey are quite beautiful and tell a remarkably inspirational story.

