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maud cotter, *a dappled world one. two. three.* © Adam Reich

*The Dappled World: A Study of the Boundaries of Science* by Nancy Cartwright holds an eclectic, rigorous, and playful description of physical reality.

“The laws that describe this world are a patchwork, not a pyramid. They do not take after the simple, elegant and abstract structure of a system of axioms and theorems. Rather they look like—and steadfastly stick to looking like—science as we know it: apportioned into disciplines, apparently arbitrarily grown up; governing different sets of properties at different levels of abstraction; pockets of great precision; large parcels of qualitative maxims resisting precise formulation; erratic overlaps; here and there, once in a while, corners that line up, but mostly ragged edges; and always the cover of law just loosely attached to the jumbled world of material things.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Quote: Nancy Cartwright, from the introduction to her book *The Dappled World: A Study of the Boundaries of Science*. Published by Cambridge University Press in 1999, ISBN 0 521 64411 9.