

## **Artist Research and Creative Statement**

Balance in the environment is an essential component of basic survival. The more people strive to advance technology at the expense of the natural world, the more humanity loses familiarity with that world, disrupting awareness of one's surroundings and severing connections with the past.

The intrinsic adaptability of aquatic animals and birds amid an ever-fluctuating environmental narrative is a powerful source of inspiration. By working through animal forms, I explore varied social attitudes, emotions, and personalities. Individual identities, hierarchies, and mutations emerge within the pieces reflecting positive and negative human interactions with the world. Humanity has become increasingly dependent upon the environment, which has dramatically impacted all ecological and biological systems.

My creative research and practices focus primarily on the use of various printmaking processes such as intaglio, lithography, and monotype. By researching more sustainable methods of working and incorporating alternative materials, such as airbrush acrylic aquatint, non-toxic inks, biodegradable printing bases and grounds, my artistic practice better reflects the environmental concepts and concerns presented in my work.

With the onset of the pandemic in early 2020, it became clear that my creative practice would have to transition from creating larger scale drawings and prints into works that could be done in a much smaller home studio space. This new way of working has allowed me to create larger piece from smaller collaged elements with the possibility of moving beyond the edge of the paper.

Blending and layering color is present throughout my body of work. I often approach color applications in printmaking as one would approach a painting. By building opaque and transparent layers in multiple printing drops, I am able to create murky and ambiguous atmospheric qualities that encourage the viewers to pause and reflect more deeply on the images presented to them and their own relationship to nature and the environment.

