

## ***Artist Statement***

I examine the profound relationship between ancient female symbolism and contemporary perspectives on Woman. My work is a marriage of symbolic characters on a journey of imagination. This journey explores the role of Woman and fertility through my works. It begins by combining ancient mythical and cultural traditions and concludes with my own life experience. My works narrate this journey, describing the sequence and interconnection of hope, fulfillment, loss and perseverance. These individual emotions cooperatively give voice to my underlying narration. I translate this narration visually through drawings and prints. I harness the compelling energy of these topics to fuel my expression of their insightful meanings. I depict recognizable shapes and symbols on different layers of my composition. The resulting multi-layered synthesis transforms those individual layers into a single new composition. This composition itself generates new figures and shapes which are the main subjects of my expression.

Drawing is the ideal technique for self-expression. Drawing is accessible both to the art student and the master. Anyone can pick up a pencil and begin to sketch or doodle confidently. This accessibility entices me to refine my latent talents. I need no specialized laboratory or shop to create, but can draw as easily in a Paris café, on a jet to Shanghai or curled up in front of the fire in a north-woods cabin. Drawing captures my own desire to balance control and chaos. I approach drawing like writing a story. My marks, lines, and shapes merge together on paper, forming a narrative. As I draw I become immersed in this narration, dissolving in the vortex of thoughts, opening myself to inspiration. Every line plays an essential role in my story. By using a two-dimensional medium, I encompass the viewer within my control, forcing him to experience the subject from my perspective. My razor-sharp pencil creates surgically-precise details, betraying my attempt to control my own life. I balance this control with the expressive chaos inherent in printmaking. Using multiple printmaking techniques allows me constantly experiment within my work. The printing process opens the door for creative 'accidents' which reveal new insights in my pictures. I embrace this surprising outcome of the printing process as a challenge, using its complex nature to enrich my work. The friction between controlled drawing and expressive printmaking sparks an energy captured in my work.

My most recent series of drawings and prints illustrate the dominance of fertility in the female artist's identity. My life is split into two major roles: artist and woman. These two essential parts co-exist in my daily life narrating a dialog of their significance and correlation that I express in my work. I use the image of an eye as a representation of a fertile female artist. Physiologically the eye has a double purpose: it sees and it looks; it receives and sends. Just as the eye receives through seeing and sends through looking, the uterus receives through impregnation and sends through birth. These two organs share comparable qualities and functions, just as the two parallel potentials of conception exist simultaneously within the female artist. The eye's circular shape reflects an ancient symbol of wholeness, unity and feminine power, thus creating visual associations with a swollen uterus, full of life. Blending the ancient and modern interpretation of fertility, I update the symbolic expression of enduring concepts expressing Womanhood.

Just as I am fascinated with parallels between functions and qualities of organs within the female body, I see analogies between drawing and printmaking processes as complimenting strategies of my artistic expression. Both techniques co-exist within my works, building a complex relationship of hand-made and printed marks that combine in creating my artistic whole.