



Suzanne Sbargé – Meta/Morph

December 1-20, 2017

Opening Reception Friday, December 1, 5-7pm

Suzanne Sbargé's mixed media works blend reality with archetype in a manner reminiscent of the magical realism of Gabriel Garcia Marquez or Isabel Allende. Sbargé places all her compositions within a dream-like atmosphere, where her integrated human/animal figures mingle with esoteric symbolism both real and invented. Sbargé's works are primal, reminding us of our essential animal nature.

In my mixed media collage paintings, I depict hybrid characters and creatures, exploring the place of animals in the human imagination during this time of rapid environmental change. I work with a wide range of current, extinct and/or imagined animals and fauna, with an emphasis on birds and avian life forms. Through my art process, I connect with the reality that we are not just interconnected with animals, we are animals.

In my art process, I try to access the place of dreams, the nonlinear, open-ended, mysterious place, where the conscious mind is not in charge. "Animals wake up the imagination," said James Hillman in Dream Animals, "You see a deer by the side of the road, or geese flying in formation, and you become hyperalert...animal dreams can do this too... As we get more into imagining, we get more animal-like...."

My artwork merges animals, plants and bits and pieces of the natural world with human figures and faces in dream-like scenes. The juxtaposition of paint and collage gives a sense of altered vision. This "collaged state of mind" – the dialogue between the real and the surreal – is what I look for. Ever-present are the dualities of familiarity and otherworldliness, interior and exterior space, domesticity and freedom, sky and earth, real and imagined.

Hillman said "The idea that we know ourselves through animals appears again and again in theories of the origins of consciousness. Some peoples say the animals once had all the knowledge and transmitted it to us." In this body of work Meta / Morph, I am seeking reflections of animal consciousness within all of us.
Suzanne Sbargé, 2017

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