

Wild Miscellany

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Wild Miscellany | artist statement

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Wild Miscellany is a project that honors the Menominee Nation.

While I was the artist-in-residence at the Paine Art Center in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, I created several bodies of work. In doing so I became very connected to the land, Lake Winnebago, and local history. The city of Oshkosh, established in 1853, is named for the Menominee tribal chief.

Chief Oshkosh (1827 - 1858) was pivotal in creating the state of Wisconsin through the sacrificial sale of ancestral homelands of the Menominee people.

Intuitively, during my residency at The Paine, I turned to investigating the history of Chief Oshkosh and the Menominee Tribe. Through my research I discovered that my home in Door County had been built (1903) upon land that had been the ancient hunting grounds of the tribe.

Out of respect and gratitude, I reached through time to create a project that connected the past spirit of the clans to flesh and blood that still roams free today.

This portfolio of animal portraits addresses ancestral practices of the "dream revelation," a sacred ritual in the doctrine of the Menominee Nation in which individuals obtain special power in the form of a guardian animal spirit.

My research was conducted at the Oshkosh Public Museum and through interviews with both Menominee elders at the reservation headquarters in Keshena, Wisconsin and living family members of Chief Oshkosh that reside in Door County in the village of Egg Harbor, Wisconsin.

The four taxidermied animals were harvested in Door County. The guardian portraits were made with a medium-format Hasselblad camera and Zeiss lenses on film. The 2 1/4" (120) film was scanned. The scanned files were then digitally printed with a pigment ink printer on 24" x 30" double weight, soft gloss paper.

The swan feathers are from protected migratory birds that were gifted from the NEW Zoo in Suamico, Wisconsin and the turkey feathers were found in the wild in southern Door County.

The feather images are photograms, a camera-less process, were made in a traditional darkroom onto gelatin silver paper. The unique analog prints were digitally scanned, enlarged, and printed in the same manner as the portraits.

The pair of white tail deer portraits are a diptych.



white tail deer



white tail deer



black bear



timber wolf



american crow



north american wild turkey feathers
photogram



tundra swan and cygnet feathers
photogram