



Mark Penner Howell | Artist Statement

Contrary to how we often behave, humans are part of the natural world, and as such we recognize aspects of ourselves mirrored in nature. Much of what we relate to in nature is predicated by our own projections onto it. Images from nature (animals in particular) creep into our dreams and well up from the subconscious, presenting themselves as mythic creatures bearing symbolic meaning. It is no wonder that animals play important symbolic functions in most religions, especially white animals. The paintings in this series explore this realm of animals as archetypes, chiefly through the lens of my own dreams, meditations, and imaginative wanderings.