

Diane Kendall
Fallow/Fertile

Theme

The work in *Fallow/Fertile* was done during the past 18 months, a time when the world has seemed to rattle and crack. While making these seven collages, I've thought about the nature of cycles - those built into our bodies, the potent cyclical forces present in the natural world and the ones that have evolved as a result of human social and cultural structures. Sometimes I've felt comforted by the predictable way cycles tie time and life together and at other times have experienced dread about some inevitable next phase of a particularly vicious cycle. The conceptual framework of my work has long been impacted by having chosen to take a long view - to look back into conventions that hold our stories (wives' tales, fables, myths, religion, history etc.) to explore which patterns persist and repeat. The work in *Fallow/Fertile* reflects my experience of this particularly turbulent moment. It's also meant to convey my hope that we can find ways to use what we know from the past and near past to do better and be better

Process

I don't use a sketchbook to keep visual records of my experiences and musings, but I do have a daily practice that serves a similar purpose. Using a variety of 2 dimensional media (drawing, painting and printmaking), I explore what's intriguing, disturbing, inspiring or exciting to me at the moment. There is generally no clear narrative attached to these individual works but I add them to a cache of small scale, single topic images. I have hundreds of them.

At some point I feel the urge to tell a story. This is when I choose work from my shelves, cut or tear out what I think might be useful and I begin assembly on the wall. Even though I may have a broad idea of how the finished piece will look like, I rely heavily on intuition and an "editing" type process. I arrange and rearrange components until the story takes shape and feels 'right'. When I'm sure I have what I want - what feels right - I adhere all the parts together, mount the collage on canvas and tie it together, visually, by adding hand-coloring. Stylistically, the finished product often takes an emblematic or totemic form.

