

Over the years, certain sets of artistic sensibilities have come to the forefront to form a kind of visual vocabulary in my work. When I use collage, rarely do I cleanly cut anything. Instead the act of tearing the paper or fabric lends itself to a sense of decay, violation, or more poignantly a loss of innocence or loss of childhood. That loss of innocence is what intrigues me so much about images of wildlife or plant life and makes me reflect on my own lost childhood. Franz Marc made a point of utilizing particular animal images to represent innocence in gender roles as well as the environment. My work with owls is a representation of both while being symbolic of my grandmother, while trees represent my grandfather. These motifs transcend a sense of place through my own nostalgia.

The collection of work that I'll be presenting at *Flora and Fauna* in April, 2016 is not necessarily a series, but could be read that way. Of particular importance to me in creating this work has been the use of texture and contrast, as well as the juxtaposition of both representational and non-representational elements. The attention being paid to process over narrative has resulted in a playful, energetic celebration of materials, making them slightly more ambiguous but very emotionally charged.

-Eric Loftin