

Forest Spirits



D E N N I S H U M P H R E Y

May 9—29, 2016

The Taste & See Shop
Vancouver BC



Forest Spirits

Artist Statement

In my artwork, I explore the interplay of colours, light and shadow, translucency, blurriness and textures, through skins, layers and folds. I capture and collect digital photos of persons and nature: faces, hands, bodies, trees and leaves. These serve as canvases to evoke characters from other worlds and times. Notions of identity, sensuality, change and transformation imbue these liminal worlds.

The images I take with my camera are not necessarily the ones that end up on paper. They are often digitally altered, combined and layered; then, they are physically shaped by hand into original mixed media works. The resulting images no longer represent what was, but what could be: the real of the unreal.

After printing the images on fine art paper using archival pigment inks, I may infuse them with beeswax or alter their surface using pencils, inks, oil and metal pigments or organic material. For this reason, I prefer to say that I “make” photos.

Also interested in the book arts, I have written and illustrated, designed and printed several handmade and print-on-demand books featuring my art and poetry, in both English and French.

Now retired, I live in Vancouver where I spend much of my time making photos and books.

Exhibition Theme

When I walk quietly in the woods, I feel the forest, touch, smell and listen to the bark, branches, mosses, leaves and ferns, as the trees sway and creak in the wind. I hear echoes of crows cawing, woodpeckers hammering and dragonfly wings fluttering nearby ... water gurgles in a stream nearby and I smell the essence of cedar.

It's an experiential place where the mind dreams and the senses awaken, evoking life, decay, rebirth and metamorphosis, inviting introspection. Sometimes, I feel a presence, as though something or someone is following my every move—spirits of the forest, entities in the woods from the past, the present or the future.

Forest Spirits focuses on beings that inhabit our woods and forests. Over the years, I have created several photographic images that might represent beings who live in, or by, the woods. For this show, I have assembled some of them and the human beings who might walk among them.

Photos as Objects

This exhibition consists of photo-based works on archival Japanese washi paper, fabric or fine art paper. They are suspended, without mats or frames, away from the wall. This highlights the translucent quality of the wax-infused paper, allowing the works to flutter freely, like leaves on a tree. Throughout the day, colours and shadows change in the ambient light, as in the forest.



A scale model of a wood nymph's kimono and mask is also displayed; the full scale piece is being prepared for another show this Fall.

As well, small miniature mixed media works that can be held in the hand, touched and carried with us, remind us that photos should live physically outside of frames and glass or off the digital screen—like those worn, yet treasured, photos that we kept in a shoebox and took out occasionally to stimulate our senses and memories.

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Dennis Humphrey

The Taste and See Shop, Vancouver

	ArtWork	Title	Medium	Dim (in)	Year	Cost
1		Trunks	Pigment ink print on wax-infused washi paper	9.4 x 7.5	2016	\$ 35.00
2		Fénix	Pigment ink print on wax-infused washi paper	10.9 x 7	2016	\$ 35.00
3		Birch spirit	Pigment ink print on wax-infused washi paper	9.4 x 7.5	2016	\$ 35.00
4		Chrysalis	Pigment ink print on wax-infused washi paper	9.7 x 7.5	2016	\$ 35.00
5		Fauvesque	Pigment ink print on wax-infused washi paper	10.9 x 7	2016	\$ 35.00
6		Cosmic tapestry	Pigment ink print on wax-infused washi paper	10 x 7.5	2016	\$ 35.00
7		Terra verde	Pigment ink print on wax-infused washi paper	10 x 7.5	2016	\$ 35.00
8		Birch man	Pigment ink print on wax-infused washi paper	7.5 x 7.5	2016	\$ 30.00
9		Discarded	Pigment ink print on wax-infused washi paper	7.5 x 7.5	2016	\$ 30.00
10		Ortus water	Pigment ink alcohol gel transfer on Arches 88 paper (Original)	7.5 x 7.5	2011	\$ 50.00

	ArtWork	Title	Medium	Dim (in)	Year	Cost
11		Red muse	Pigment ink alcohol gel transfer on Arches 88 paper (Original)	7.5 x 7.5	2011	\$ 50.00
12		Twin kodama	Pigment ink alcohol gel transfer on Arches 88 paper (Original)	7.5 x 7.5	2011	\$ 50.00
13		Artist in ferns	Pigment ink print on wax-infused fine art paper (Original)	8.25 x 11	2016	\$ 45.00
14		Artist through leaf	Pigment ink print on silk polyester	7.5 x 9.7	2016	\$ 35.00
15		Wood nymph in birch tree	Pigment ink print on wax-infused washi paper	9.7 x 7.5	2010	\$ 35.00
16		Nymph warning	Pigment ink print on silk polyester	7.5 x 9.7	2016	\$ 35.00
17		Wood nymph 1	Pigment ink print on wax-infused fine art paper (from mixed media photo-encaustic on paper onto wood panel)	7.5 x 9.4	2016	\$ 35.00
18		Wood nymph 2	Pigment ink print on wax-infused fine art paper (from mixed media photo-encaustic on paper onto wood panel)	9,4 x 7.5	2016	\$ 35.00
19		Artist triptych	Mixed media photo-encaustic on Fabriano cold press paper (Original)	9.5 x 13	2014	\$ 65.00
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20		Visual haikus (8)	Mixed media photo-encaustic on fine art paper (Originals)	3.25 x 5	2016	\$ 25.00 ea
		Forest awakens	Alcohol gel transfer on Arches 88 paper (Original)	2.6 x 3.8	2011	\$ 25.00
21		Leaf	Pigment ink print on wax-infused washi paper	8.5 x 7	2016	NFS
22		Kodama kimono and mask (¼ scale)	Pigment ink print on InkPress paper	21 x 13	2016	NFS



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