

Artist Statement
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Animals have so many wonderful aspects to their identities that they share with us. Whether great or small, wise or evil, fast or slow, they share so many stories with us on this earth. I am always amazed by their delicacy and I always want to ask why we are so much alike but also so different. I start this exploration by trying to identify the relationship between animals and humans. What is the relationship between animals, and myself? Why do I feel such a strong bond with them both emotionally and physically?

As a young child grew up with wildlife and was surrounded by loving pets. Animals were my closest friends and a part of my identity. For me, animals are a connection to the soul. I always have the greatest curiosity for their unique characteristics. Although they never speak a single word, I know I am already a part of them, and they are a part of me. I empathize with them and want to know more about their experiences. More importantly, I want to share those amazing stories and invite others to this world. Therefore, I do not just paint or draw animals, I speak for them, as they cannot speak for themselves. I want to share their beauties because I know they deserve to be recognized.

As modern human civilization developed, conflicts between the artificial culture represented by humans and nature have appeared. The most intense conflicts between humans and the natural world revolved around land. While industries are producing energy that keeps human society running, millions of animals have lost their natural habitats due to landscape changes, railroad construction, pollution, and more. While agricultural machinery is feeding the growing human population, thousands of acres of forests have been chopped down and animals are being driven out of their habitats to the edge of extinction. I have a moral obligation to make a statement about the current plight of our precious endangered megafauna.

My mixed media series “The endangered charms” focuses on three endangered species in Asia: Green peafowl, Amur leopard, and Finless porpoise. All three species are endangered and threatened by habitat loss. In a series of watercolor paintings, “The Boss”, a giant panda is posed as a bureaucrat who just finished dinner. This piece highlights the issues of conservation resource allocation. In the watercolor diptych, “Domestic instincts”, there is a focus on the plight of domestic animals, with an emphasis on food borne diseases in the two most popular pets, cats and dogs. By showing these creatures in a fantasy setting, I want my work to connect people’s impression of wild animals with domestic animals, and to encourage a deeper reflection of our relationship with animals.