

ANTHONY CARLTON COOKE

ARTIST STATEMENT

My art concerns nature, the environment, the juxtaposition of beauty and unease, and psychological and physical transformation. It is characterized by an emphasis on line, shape and pattern, all of which reappear as different forms throughout a piece or a series of works, attesting to the necessity for individuality and connectedness.

Although drawn from nature, my subjects are stylized and symbolic, and as such exist in psychological spaces rather than physical locations, alongside my original poetry and epigrams. Here, art and text are inseparable for meaning to emerge. Rather than having art illustrate a poem or a poem describe a work of art, I place art and poetry in a symbiotic relationship.

My influences also cross disciplinary boundaries. Illustration, still life, emblem books, illuminated manuscripts, scientific art, poetry, film and drama, philosophy, even word puzzles, all contribute to the formation and evolution of my artistic practice.

After some experimentation I embraced a mixed media style because it comes closest to a material articulation of the ideas shaping my work. I work on paper because it promotes an intimate relationship with my materials, a connection and sense of discovery I want to pass on to the viewer.