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# CAMERA CANADA

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# Photogenic Drawings

I am interested in how we perceive the nature that surrounds us. I am inspired by the complexity of nature and awed by the simple organic shapes of fallen leaves, seeds, branches, etc.

I started my photogenic drawings because of this interest in natural elements and so, for the last several years, I have visited a local forest, slowly developing my idea as to how I could preserve my experiences in this natural haven. In this forest I found a place of living, breathing vitality with all sorts of plantforms growing in chaos from the blackness beneath. I also found trees that have been uprooted or broken in half from the deadly winds and ice storms. Vines have begun to take over the undergrowth, slowly beginning to choke the beautiful groundcover and wild flowers.

To create my photogenic drawings I chose fallen elements representative of the various aspects of forest life and death. I placed the

organic material on the light sensitive paper with no pre-conceived idea in mind. Shining a light through the material is what renders the image. The paper turns black where the light has been allowed to directly come in contact with the paper; white is left where the light could not come in contact, and a myriad of greys show the intricate patterning of the design of the object.

The shapes of the organic material gave me the direction to elaborate on. The process of collection and creation was very spontaneous, chance playing a major role in the overall development of the image. Everything that came to mind over the course of developing the image was included in the artworks using hand manipulation. Since there were no preliminary sketches, the image grew out of the process of layering, line over line, form over form. Using impressionistic multi-colour layering of swirls of oil pastel, I pushed the photogenic drawings to a point where they almost changed into another medium.



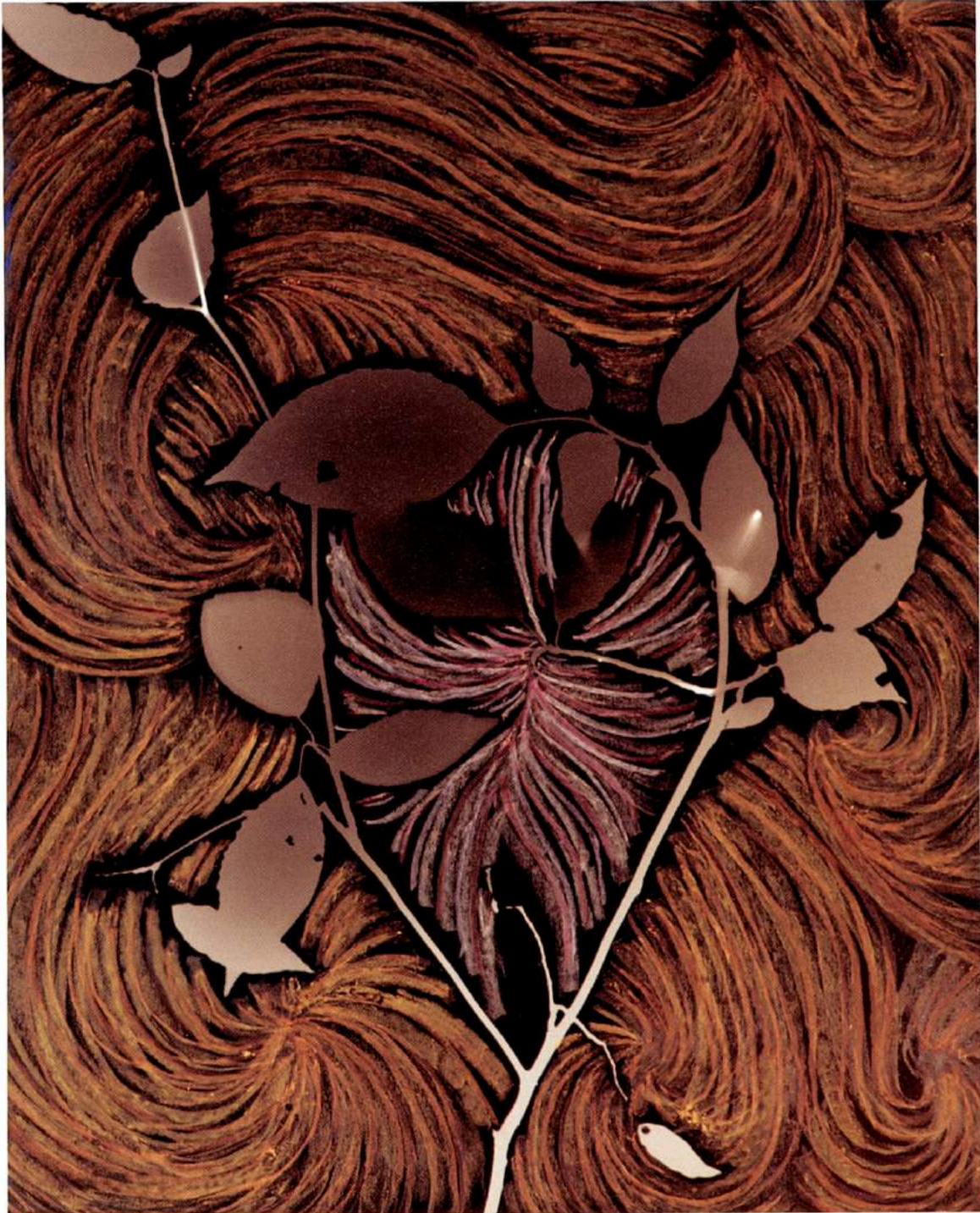
On glossy, fibre based paper the oil pastel has a textured translucency and colour consistency very different than when used on any other sort of paper. This look and feel creates the life force behind the chosen elements and creates the sense of energy and vitality not only within the organic forms themselves but also from the surrounding elements in which they survive. The textured strokes of oil pastel colours shows the bands of energy within and being released from these living elements. The resulting images allude to this very special environment, the forest becoming once again enchanted when we connect with it.

I have tried to portray the essence of the forest - growing, thriving, reproducing, surviving generation after generation in its own life to death cycle, and yet at the same time represent mans' need to tame and curate nature and by mythic extension the nature in ourselves. □



*Looking Up*





*The Masquerade*



*Winter Fruit*







*The Consumptor*

*Death Encroaches*







*Dynamics of a Blowing Leaf*