

REMEMBRANCES

It happened more than once as I remember. We would be hiking as a family in the woods somewhere, and my mom would suddenly stop, make us stand still, and say “shhhhh.... let’s be quiet a minute.... just listen”. I think this is half of what an artist’s role is. To stop every now and then, to be quiet and just listen. The other half of an artist’s job is to somehow connect those quiet moments, or capture them, or interpret them in such a way that reveals something that reminds us of who we are.

I titled this show Remembrances. Merriam Webster defines the word remembrance as “a state of bearing in mind”. I think “bearing in mind” implies something more than a memory that may pass through our thoughts for a moment and then be gone... it implies carrying something with us, keeping something present or in the forefront of our thoughts. This is an action that takes work.

When I look at what I’ve been doing in my studio lately through this lens, I realize that I have been trying to bear in mind our common humanity as we struggle to find and make a place with each other on this earth we call home. We love, long for, and feel nostalgic for the natural world, for spending time in nature, but then it can be so cruel to us too, and in return we can be so cruel to it. Our very presence on earth damages it. In the same way, we long for love and peace and feel nostalgic about trusting and harmonious relationships, but in reality we can be so cruel to each other. We can so easily forget to bear in mind our common humanity and the state of our home.

“Bearing in mind” requires stopping, listening and watching every now and then. In this transitory life, it asks us to strive for a balance between moving and standing still. It involves reflecting on the mystery of the past and present, while anticipating the mystery of the future and always trying to hold on to some stillness somewhere in between.