

Catie O'Leary
Artists Statement

The images in my collages are original engraved illustrations from antique books. The books are my inspiration as well as my material. I intuitively gravitate toward images that interest me. The meticulously cut-out parts become puzzle pieces in my selection process creating a chain of associations. Each collage is densely composed and like a novel, it takes time to "read" the intimate yet abstract narratives.

To construct the collages, I layer and glue cut-out images from the books on book pages from the same period, creating a relationship between word and image. As I start composing, the appropriated familiar images of birds, animals, landscapes, drapery, architecture and scientific objects occupy a visual space together. The unexpected juxtapositions become embellished maps, poetic landscapes combining elements of nature encountering man.