

## **Artists' Statement – Morality Tales**

Firecat Projects presents “Morality Tales”, a two-person exhibition featuring the work of Mary Porterfield and Kathy Weaver. Porterfield’s drawings address when to accept what cannot be changed, especially when caring for those in need. Weaver elaborates on the treatment of others through various depictions of Aesop’s fables, each providing a lesson of morality. With Porterfield’s history as an occupational therapist and Weaver’s work with community activism, both artists bring their personal views to a show of narrative works that address values in today’s world.

Porterfield’s drawings are influenced by her work in healthcare. With soft edges and careful rendering, she creates invented spaces and allegorical scenes that attempt to ask: If assistance is warranted, but not wanted, should it be abandoned? Why is a long life given to some, yet denied others? Is it more heroic to accept the uncontrollable or attempt change in the midst of futility or danger? Porterfield’s intention is to provide a balanced perspective between giving and receiving when assisting others.

Weaver’s paintings depict allegories, starring robots and animals in mysterious new worlds. Through hard edges, pattern, and playful coloring, the viewer witnesses opposing kinds of behavior. Symbols of the American eagle, deforestation, and water scarcity reference governmental situations. Some of the tales show survival of the strongest and most cunning, while others demonstrate the golden rule and the celebration of humanity. Weaver’s paintings, derived from Aesop’s Fables of 600 BC, show the constants in humanity.

In a time when connectedness and compassion seem absent in so many of the world’s tragedies, both artists provide an alternative viewpoint, concerned with how we can treat others in a more individualistic and respectful manner.

Mary Porterfield  
Kathy Weaver  
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