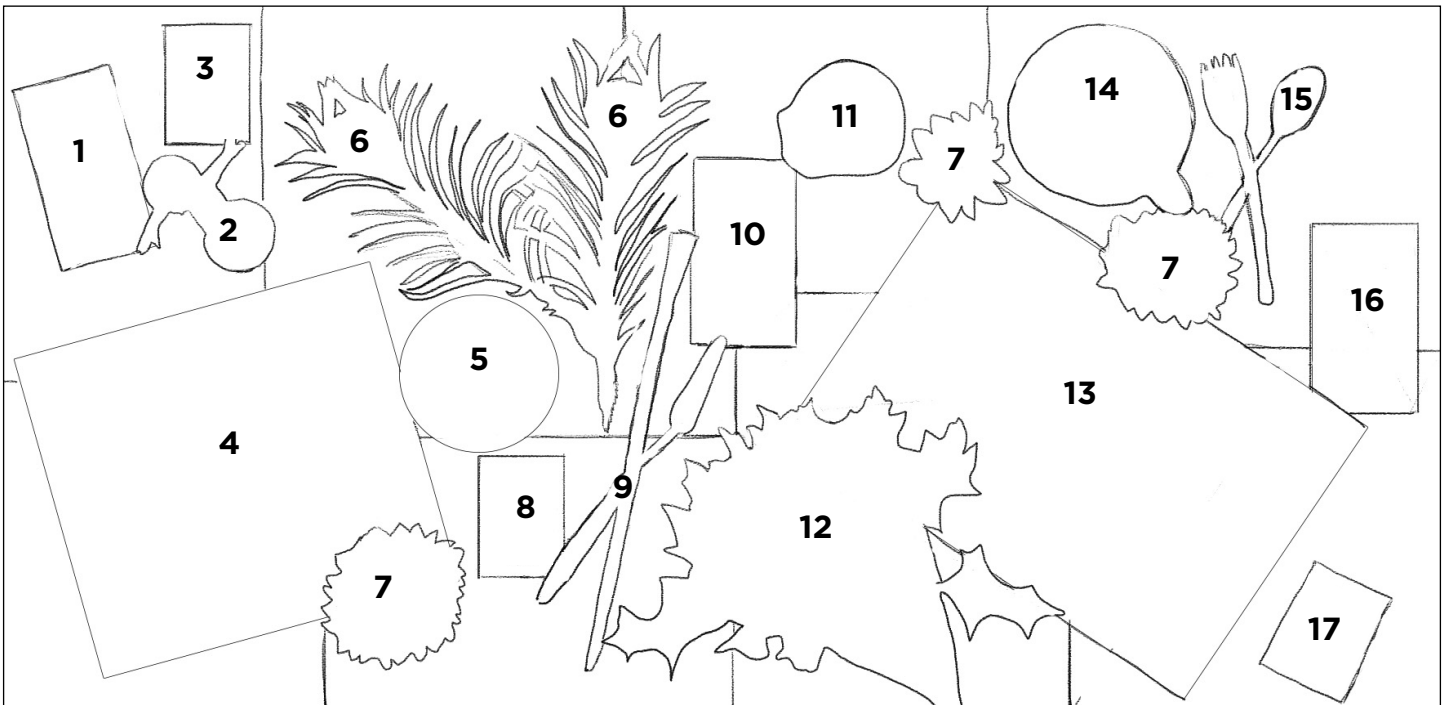


ARTIFACTS II: Symbolism Description



The name of a recent series of works I am calling *Artifacts* are visual explorations of the idea of representing objects as kind of like the “artifacts” an archeologist might find if they were conducting an excavation of a life. In this particular instance - my life. Food, glass tumblers, coffee cups, plates and eating utensils are common household tools used in the eating rituals of daily life. Books, art journals, tarot cards and photos suggest items representing what is valued by this person (me). Suggesting what is valued is the act of creating, learning, family, and exploring occult and arcane knowledge, etc. The items in this paintings are things that hold interest to me in some form on my journey in this life.

Artifacts 2 Items List:

- 1. Ace of Wands Tarot Card:** Aces in Tarot represent new beginnings. Wands represent the fire element. The Ace of Wands is about the first impulse and the passionate will to begin a new project idea, business venture, creative invention etc. (Pamela Colman Smith Tarot deck)
- 2. Daredevil Little Giant Limited Edition Figurine:** This figurine is a cherished gift from a former coworker. To me, it represents stepping into the unknown. The Marvel character Daredevil is blind due to an accident in childhood. The figurine is blindly taking a step forward with a look on his face of someone about to fall over any minute. This how I have felt for a number of years. Stepping forward even though I cannot see way ahead, but trusting that the way will continue to reveal itself as I go - and it has every step of the way.
*View of the Daredevil statue from the front.
- 3. The Number 3:** Three is a magic number. It has a powerful spiritual history in many cultures and religions: the birth-life-death cycle, the mind-body-soul connection, etc. "The power of three will set you free" - Charmed. It is considered a number representing harmony, stability and completion. Think of a three legged stool. Without the third leg, it wouldn't function very well.
- 4. Vernon Fisher Exhibition Book:** Vernon Fisher's work was one of my early sources of inspiration as an artist. His blackboard style paintings are brilliant and were the foundation for my own exploration in creating that affect in some of my work.
- 5. Glass of Water:** The circle shape has been used throughout history across many cultures to represent the soul. The element of water symbolizes purification, healing, emotions, psychic abilities, the unconscious and intuition.
- 6. Peacock Feathers:** These beautiful feathers have long been prized for their greenish blue jewel-like brilliance. They have many meanings in many cultures, among these are longevity, balance, beauty, 3rd eye perception, immortality, awakening, self-confidence, spirituality, resurrection, self-love & leadership. Once, several years ago when I was newly divorced and feeling incredibly lost, I used to go for long walks in a favorite park near my home to clear my mind and discharge all the negative emotions I was experiencing. One early morning I arrived and discovered the entire park covered with peacock feathers! I couldn't believe it. I didn't know the birds annually shed them, so my first thought was that something terrible had happened to the peacocks living in the park. Seeing they were alright but missing their beautiful tail feathers, I guessed this must be something they do. Needless to say, I gathered as many as I could. I kept several and gave many away to friends and family. These sublime feathers brighten my home still, and I will always be grateful for the peacocks and their beautiful gift.
- 7. Marigold Flowers:** Marigolds are a favorite in many regions across the globe. Their sunny bright colors are generally associated with the sun, positive energy, healing (they can be used as a powerful healing medicinal herb) and joy.
- 8. The Letter S:** The numerical equivalent of 1 and represents beginnings. This letter also carries the element of fire and associated with spirituality, serpent (kundalini rising), sexuality, soul, self, transcendence, and strength.
- 9. Paint brush crossed with a painting knife:** The tools of the painter's trade. They are crossed to represent a blessing and possibly an affliction depending on the attitude in the studio on any given day. Lol!
- 10. The Ace of Cups Tarot Card:** Aces in Tarot represent beginnings. Cups represent the element of water. The Ace of Cups is about new love, new relationships, compassion, new creative projects, spiritual insight and inspiration. (Pamela Colman Smith Tarot deck)
- 11. Kāne(con-nay) Statue:** Kāne is the Hawaiian god of procreation and was worshiped as ancestor of chiefs and commoners. Kāne is the creator and gives life associated with dawn, sun and sky.
*View of Kāne statue from the front.

12. Autumn Leaves: The Autumn season is one of my favorite with its warm colors and cooler temperatures. I have come to relish this time greatly as a break from the relentless heat of the Mojave Desert summers. This is the transition time when the bounty of summer is harvested and the world begins to release what was in preparation for the new to come. I am in the autumn of my life heading into winter. It has been an interesting time of remembering what was, letting go of what is no longer of relevance, and figuring out what to keep for the remainder of my journey in this form.

13. Sketchbook: This is an old sketchbook of mine. The pages shown are of two studies I did in gouache of a meerkat on the left page and a dog on the right. I was just learning about gouache when I sketched these. The animals themselves have symbolic meaning. Meerkat, because they cohabitate in large underground “warrens” and are fiercely protective of each other, represent one’s true tribe or family. Dogs generally represent fidelity and friendship.

14. Coffee Cup: Diner Americana has always been a source of inspiration for as long as I have been painting. This particular coffee cup is a typical old-school style ubiquitous in restaurant from the 1930’s to the 1950’s. I have used it as an element in a number of still life paintings over the years. Spiritually speaking the cup empty and open to the sky like this suggests a soul open and ready to receive divine grace, love and joy.
*View of coffee cup from the front.

15. Fork and Spoon: The essential tools for eating. They are crossed and thus suggest an x or crossing. On a roadside sign this would mean that food is available off the next exit. Take heart, nourishment is near.

16. Ace of Pentacles Tarot Card: Aces of the Tarot, represents new beginnings, opportunities, and potential. Pentacle cards are associated with the earth element. The Ace of Pentacles are about new beginnings in the material world: finances, wealth, career, physical health and manifestation of your goals.
(Pamela Colman Smith Tarot deck)

17. The Letter A: Associated with new beginnings because of its place as the first letter in the English alphabet. The capital letter has three lines. The number three, as discussed earlier, is magical. It is a number of manifestation into the material from the alchemical mixing of the soul, mind and body. “A” is the alpha before the omega.



* 2. Daredevil statue



* 11. Kāne statue



* 14. Coffee cup