

The New Horses

This is a new and ongoing series of Horses using a large block outline technique of carving. They are designed for ritual work, each seeking to invoke a particular and powerful state of awareness. The inspiration for these was a strange combination of things. I was re-reading Kristofer Schipper's great book *Taoist Body* about the Corpse Spirits in our bones that want to kill us in order to return to the earth as I went through the extraction of several nasty old teeth. At a full moon ceremony I was told to pick up a prayer stick and ask the moon for her blessings. As I went to the work of my constant inspiration, Max Ernst, I saw the demons form in the gnarls of the prayer stick and knew I had to find a different way of carving to give them images.

The Five Corpse Demons 24 x 26 in.



Hidden **Animal Powers** drum up the **inner fire** that reveals the demons of the Five Elements, **Metal**, **Fire**, **Earth**, **Water** and **Wood**. The **scavenging birds** strip away the old to release the **hidden sparks** of intelligence.

Birds and Fishes 23 x 25 in.



Here the **Heart Fire** deep in the **Waters** transforms the **hidden fishes** or purified psychic contents into **bright birds of omen** that awaken and illuminate the symbolic power of the Four Sides or Directions and vitalize their Hidden Winds – **Fall/West** and **Spring/East**, **Summer/South** and **Winter/North** – that define the playing field of our life.

The Old Well 19 x 29 in.



Two **Bamboo Shamans** read out the Changes in the muddy old **Well**, full of trapped animal spirits and haunted by the **ghosts of the past**. Released from the trap, the spirits of the Four Directions, **East**, **West**, **South** and **North** empower the **Earth** spirit, while the **Ghost Cart** collects the malignant spirits and takes them off to punishment.

Hidden in the Mountain 18 x 32 in.



The **Twin Peaks** conceal the **Dog Spirit of the Mountain** nurturing new growth and a new time, presided over by the **Calling Crane**, spirit of the inner heart. The **War Duke** chops off the heads of the demons of the past as the **scavenging birds** descend and the **bird spirit of the Old Gatekeeper** reveals the fishes of inner riches.

Dead Center 19 x 26 in.



Hidden deep in the **Twin Peaked Mountain**, the **antlered Bird of Transformation** rises from the **grave mound** that holds ancestral spirits.

Heart's Journey 18 x 22 in.



The icons of the **Ancestral Guardians** set off a **zone of shamanic transformation** that contains and inspires the **ongoing music of the heart's journey**.

The Ancient Forest 18 x 25 in.



The old **Water Wheel** works on an old identity, presided over by the **Ancestor's Face**. **Spirit messengers** stream in, activating the **Dream Fox** and releasing the **revitalizing power of new growth**.