

Hide

Deborah Thompson

Throughout the past decade, I have worked with animal imagery as a departure point in my paintings - a selection of them under the title, *Hide* were exhibited in 2007 at the Kootenay Galley of Art and History in Castlegar, BC. Many have never been exhibited but none the less form a significant portion of my work at this time.

The title, *Hide* has a double meaning that of something being hidden and that of referencing animal / human nature or perhaps better put instinctual nature. They were painted during a time when I was interested in a symbolic reading of animals and the way in which we associate animals with certain emotions and instincts. I am interested in the long history of animal - human relations as depicted in visual culture since the paleolithic era. How has this relationship shifted over time? What might this tell us about our current culture? Our relationship to instinct? Or to the environment?

Many of the animal paintings came from my studies into animal anatomy. Other influences include children's stories and dream imagery.

The relationship between instinct and archetype is prevalent in my paintings and often appears in unintentionally in satirical ways, like in a dream scene, the animal holds ones projected unconscious material, waiting for one to wake up.