

ABOUT THE ARTIST

MARY TOSCANO grew up in Salt Lake City and received a BFA in printmaking and photography from the University of Utah. She works mainly in drawing, printmaking, installation, and works on and with paper. She has recently exhibited work throughout Utah and in Boston, including collaborative exhibitions with Cara Despain at the Central Utah Art Center (Cinderbox) and Kayo Gallery (Into the White) and contributions to several group shows in Salt Lake City venues such as GARFO Art Center, Copper Palate Press, Signed and Numbered, and the University of Utah's Gittins Gallery. In 2009, she received a Juror's Award at 35x35, an Artists of Utah exhibition at Finch Lane Gallery that featured thirty-five Utah artists under age thirty-five. She works as the exhibitions coordinator for the Marriott Library and the Book Arts Program at the University of Utah.

Toscano's work focuses on themes of isolation, fatalism, and the uncanny. These themes are often represented through depictions of human and animal interactions, juxtaposing the figures in relationships that suggest tensions between the human and natural worlds. Settings within her work are often left undefined, with no geographic markers to orient the characters, creating an uneasy feeling that leaves room for viewers to make their own interpretation of the narrative. Toscano's narratives are inspired by ancient myths and fairy tales mixed with anecdotes and memories of her life. By using contemporary figures in undefined settings, she intends her work "to show how these time-worn stories are applicable to modern situations and are as relevant to today's culture as those in the past."