

Jeremiah, 2004
mixed media
19 x 12 x 12 inches



Bird Dog II, 2005
mixed media
20 x 8 x 16 inches



Cat/Dog, 2004
mixed media
12 x 13 x 7 inches



< *Fido*, 2004
mixed media
18 x 17 x 7 inches

Ritualized animal images have had enduring religious, mythic and aesthetic significance for over 35,000 years. Animals, especially dogs, are central to my work and philosophy. My sculptural goal is to capture an animal's gesture or movement. Through my work, I aspire to create whimsical, animated creatures that reveal the spiritual presence I feel animals possess.

I use found objects for surface embellishments—jewelry, buttons, dice and watches (*Watch Dog*)—and in my most recent work, incorporate porcelain figurines similar to those I collected as a child. *Fido* is completely covered with dogs, *Bird Dog* has hundreds of birds and *Cat/Dog* has cats on one side and dogs on the other. My dogs, Mingo and Bonnie, mixed-breed rescues, come to my studio every day to “pose,” sleep and play.

—Mary Engel

Mary Engel photographs courtesy of Marcia Wood Gallery

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