

## Winter 2020 – Hovering



Noelle Rasmussen *You Too (3)*

Hi Everybody,

I hope you're keeping safe as you live in this world of ours.

Three ideas hovering in my thoughts:

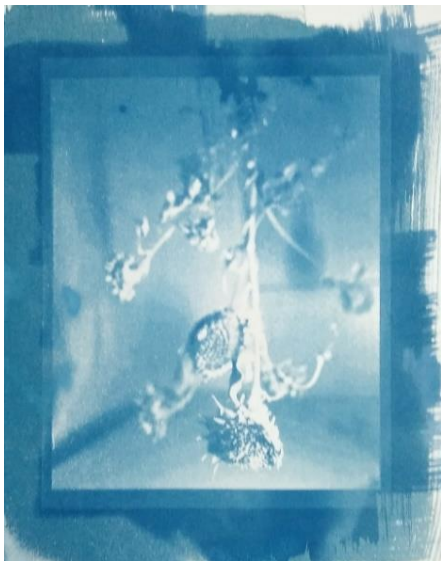
**Renewal** – Am I mature enough to live with uncertainty and not blindly follow rules set by others? In *Contemplation in a World of Action* (1998) Thomas Merton writes about the health of monasteries. His ideas are applicable to our lives now. I love that there is mystery in our world but prefer it out there and not here messing with my life! There are important answers, questions, and solutions to find and rules to follow! Merton says maturity is a sign of accepting uncertainty in our lives. I am working on growing up.

**A Sense of Place** –What are the trees hanging over me? I moved with my family across the continent and into a new country a year ago. The language is the same, but much in the environment is new. I walk a lot but haven't been learning names of plants or birds. Is this important? In *Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness* (2011) Lyanda Lynn Haupt makes the argument that it is essential. If we don't start recognizing what is around us if it disappears who will remember it? If it is endangered who will fight for it? If it is invasive who will pull it out? To learn the names of other beings is to acknowledge and accept that there is more life than human in our world. And it acknowledges that other than human life is integral to the life and health of the world. We are engaging in a fight against monoculture when we recognize and name other species. More people living this importance are David Allen Sibley in *What It's Like To Be A Bird: From Flying To Nesting, Eating To Singing—What Birds Are Doing and Why* (2020) and Julia Bausenhardt the illustrator and nature sketcher at [juliabausenhardt.com](http://juliabausenhardt.com). I love their results. They document, watch, learn about their world and interests, and share and encourage others to too. It's time to be a part of who and where I am right now, to see Kokanee salmon in the Pentiction creek, to acknowledge that I would rather give way on the path to a mule deer than evict it.

**Doing Nothing** – Jenny Odell, in *How To Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy* (2019), talks about the importance of context, of knowing your time and space and about discipline. I spend so much time in thought sometimes that I actually believe I've done what I've thought about when I haven't! Disengaging from the online and engaging with what is in front of me, finding space to let in ideas of others who share my place and my time are ways I can ground myself in the here and now.

To hover is “to remain floating, suspended, or fluttering in the air. To remain in an uncertain state; waver” (wordnik.com). I spend a lot of time hovering, being unsure. We are hovering as we wait with anticipation for a vaccine against Covid-19. I am hovering in my new home as I wrestle with having few roots to ground me when those I left behind are calling out. I hover in choosing a subject for art when there is always another idea around the corner. It takes discipline to land, maturity to live and accept uncertainty, and patience to observe and engage at the same time. To hover has another meaning: “To protect or shelter; cover with the wings and body” (wordnik.com). And I realize in remaining suspended I am also trying to protect myself and my family. To stay in suspense, undecided, may feel safe but it’s not really. I have no choice in when or where I was born, but I have a choice right now about what I will engage with. If I abdicate that choice, what does that make me?

Below are 2 cyanotypes from a series of 12 *Helianorns*. I made them when I was thinking of this place and this neighborhood I have landed in. The pictures below are currently being exhibited at Pentiction Art Gallery in Pentiction, BC from November 2020 – January 23, 2021! You can visit in person or online at <http://pentictionartgallery.com/under-500-2020-page-2>



Noelle Rasmussen *Helianorns V* and *XI*

**Art is always on display at my website <https://noellerasmussen.com> and some of it is for sale.**

If you would like to receive a newsletter straight to your inbox 4 times a year with the seasons let me know by replying to this email or sign up at <https://noellerasmussen.com/news>.

What do you think? I love hearing from you! You can send me an email at [gentlebeaststudio@gmail.com](mailto:gentlebeaststudio@gmail.com)

Best wishes for winter! Thanks for reading!

Noelle