

Due to Covid-19, my two upcoming exhibitions have been postponed until next year. Rescheduling my "Coming Home" exhibition has especially weighed on me the past few days. It's the first time I've intentionally created a body of work with a specific theme. Typically, my dreamscapes and creatures come together cohesively-ish on their own, and the title of the show and paintings are often decided at the last minute. (Not surprising with names like "Owl #1", "Owl #2", etc). I didn't choose or plan "Coming Home". It chose me surprisingly one morning while waiting for a doctor's appointment. The office was running way behind schedule. Luckily, I had brought my dayplanner/notebook. One minute I was writing a to-do list, and the next I was in a frenzy filling page after page with scribbled ideas and sketches. I couldn't get them down fast enough. Three hours later I left without having seen the doctor but having the beginning of "Coming Home" in hand.

I don't think any moment in my life has ever felt so right for so many reasons as it did that morning in the waiting room. Everything came together effortlessly and with an intensity that awakened a part of me I had lost for quite some time. This body of work is about that loss of self, reclaiming my voice, and finding the way back to myself—home. Divided into three parts—"The Falling", "The Awakening", and "The Healing"—the show incorporates mixed media, installations, and paintings to tell a story. It's a deeply personal account that needed a voice in order to heal and move forward. "Coming Home" gave me that voice.

My story is almost done. It just needs to be installed to unify all the pieces into a whole so the story can be read in its entirety. Closure. Instead of holding onto the paintings until next year's exhibit date, I'm installing "Coming Home" at *my* home the end of July. I'm still hashing out details, but I plan to video the chronology of the exhibition which will be installed both outdoors and in a barn. The video, as well as photographs of each piece, will be posted on my website. Most work will be for sale. Opening the exhibit to the public to view in person is still uncertain. Updates will be posted on my website www.heathergerni.com.

I look forward to sharing my new work, my story, with you.

-Heather