

WHY ART? WHY MONSTERS?

Art gives us ways to tell our stories. It gives us access to the stories of other individuals, cultures, and eras. It engages us, invites us to express who we are, what we grapple with, what we have experienced. It invites us to imagine, build, develop, refine. It can bring wonder, solace, intrigue, pleasure, and tears.

Monsters are metaphors for our fears, both specific and general, individual and societal. Monsters give us a way of approaching The Other, and monsters also can give us a way of facing disturbing aspects of ourselves.

But, meanwhile, monsters can be fun. When we make a monster we get to make the rules about what it looks like, what it is made out of. Fifteen heads, or eyes at the tip of its tongue? Who is to say otherwise? At the same time, we are creating something unique, engaged in the process of making on one level, and on another level, doing the important work of probing our fears, both in ourselves and in the world around us. We are giving these form, and definitions. We are controlling the narrative.