

ERIN HAYDEN

ARTWORK

Flower-o'-the-Moon premieres six new paintings and a video by Illinois State University alumna Erin Hayden. Influenced by fairytales and storytelling, the works address the artist's Irish ancestry, Celtic goddesses, girlhood, and the symbolism of water. Equally versed in the creation of digital and analog images, the Chicago-based artist exploits the possibilities of online searches and photo editing software for her (often) multi-layered digital collages. She then prints them onto fabric and applies a range of painted surfaces, including shiny globs of acrylic and airy clouds of spray paint. The resulting works include surprising juxtapositions that embrace cuteness and absurdity while also prompting deeper consideration of how we access information and meaning.

Works on paper featuring the artist's poetic texts and typewriter-based drawings are on view. Citing the influence of writers Gertrude Stein, e.e. cummings, and Annie Besant, Hayden says that her own writing "takes a more analog approach to constructing mind spaces while also composing on the pages." The performative aspect of the writing is integral to her practice. She points out that "as words move into poetry, prose, and then drawing with the typewriter," it "allows for errors to be visible...and poetic riffing on mistakes as part of the fluid writing process."

subjective frame

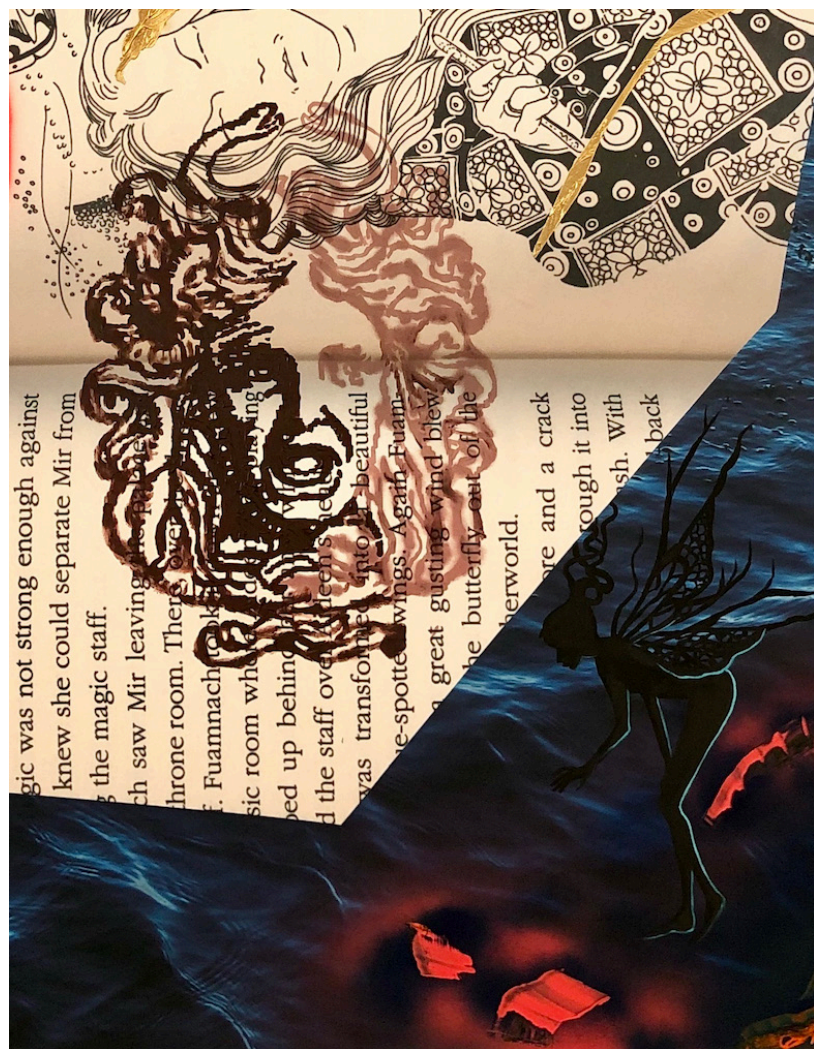
- What is your immediate emotional response to Hayden's paintings compared to her video?

structural frame

- What formal qualities within Hayden's work evoke such feelings?
- How do Hayden's compositional choices affect where your attention is drawn? What importance do these areas have based on what you see?

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Erin Hayden is an interdisciplinary artist working in painting, performance, poetry, video, and installation. Her work has been exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Stony Island Arts Bank, Chicago; Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea Torino, Italy; Mana Contemporary, Chicago; and Randy Alexander Gallery, Chicago. She has been an artist resident at the Ragdale Foundation and the Banff Center for Arts and Creativity and is a Luminarts Fellow. She has been featured in reviews and publications such as, *Frieze*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Lori Waxman's 60wrld/min art critic*, and *NewCity Art* as a 2018 Breakout Artist. She received her MFA in Art Theory and Practice at Northwestern University, and her BFA in Painting and BS in Art Education at Illinois State University. She is currently living and working in Chicago.



Spotted Wings (detail), 2019. Acrylic on dyed canvas. Courtesy of the artist.

cultural frame

- How does Hayden's choice of subject matter for her paintings speak to how ideas are shared in contemporary culture?
- How does Hayden's use of symbols of water relate to both historical and contemporary themes?
- In Hayden's poems, what do the stamped images tell you about cultural values? How does Hayden's poetry relate to or challenge these values?

VOCABULARY

CONTEXT

the situation in which something happens

CONTEMPORARY

something that belongs to the present or current time

COMPOSITION

the arrangement of visual elements in an artwork; the way in which something is put together or arranged

SUBJECT MATTER

what is being depicted in an image or artwork

SUBJECTIVE

something that is open to interpretation; up to the viewer to decide

FORMAL QUALITIES

refers to elements and principles of design such as line, shape, color, balance, movement, contrast, and unity

SYMBOLISM

expressing an idea or quality through an image or design

EVENTS

- **Friday, September 13, from 5pm to 7pm:** Artist reception at University Galleries
- **Monday, September 30, 12pm:** Conversation with Erin Hayden at University Galleries
- **Monday, September 30, 4:30pm:** Performance by Erin Hayden at University Galleries
- Field trip program, curator-led tours, and workshops available by appointment. Please contact Tanya Scott at 309.438.5488 or tmcot3@ilstu.edu to register.

*Field trip stipends are available thanks to a Town of Normal Harmon Arts grant.

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Breath! (Illustrated by Vera Bock), 2019. Acrylic on dyed canvas. Courtesy of the artist.

ART-MAKING ACTIVITIES

- Inspired by *Flower-o'-the-Moon*, encourage your students to reflect upon their ancestry and stories that have been passed down through the generations. As a group, discuss how images are used to communicate concepts in contemporary culture. Invite students to create an artwork that uses a combination of contemporary and historical imagery to re-tell a story from their culture.
- Choose a work of art by Hayden and identify and analyze the symbolism of the imagery found within the work. Discuss how this use of imagery to convey meaning compares to ancient means of communication. Then consider her use of text and the evolution of written means of communication.
- Brainstorm with a partner about images and sayings you frequently encounter. Use these images and sayings to collaboratively create a composition. Individually write a stream-of-consciousness poem in response to your composition. With your partner, compare and contrast your poems.

***ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**