## The New Horses

This is a new and ongoing series of Horses using a large block outline technique of carving. They are designed for ritual work, each seeking to invoke a particular and powerful state of awareness. The inspiration for these was a strange combination of things. I was re-reading Kristofer Schipper's great book *Taoist Body* about the Corpse Spirits in our bones that want to kill us in order to return to the earth as I went through the extraction of several nasty old teeth. At a full moon ceremony I was told to pick up a prayer stick and ask the moon for her blessings. As I went to the work of my constant inspiration, Max Ernst, I saw the demons form in the gnarls of the prayer stick and knew I had to find a different way of carving to give them images.

The Five Corpse Demons 24 x 26 in.



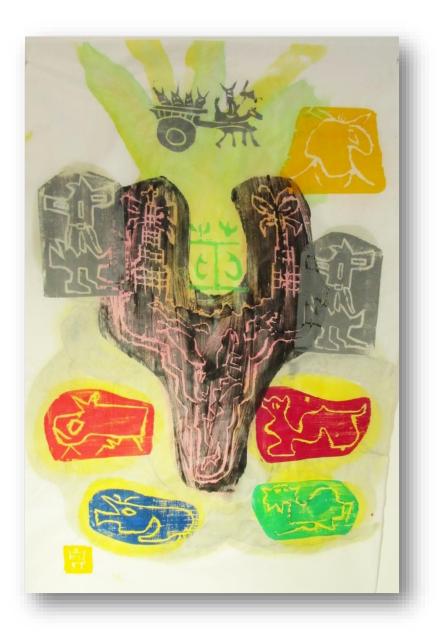
Hidden **Animal Powers** drum up the **inner fire** that reveals the demons of the Five Elements, **Metal**, **Fire**, **Earth**, **Water** and **Wood**. The **scavenging birds** strip away the old to release the **hidden sparks** of intelligence.

Birds and Fishes 23 x 25 in.



Here the **Heart Fire** deep in the **Waters** transforms the **hidden fishes** or purified psychic contents into **bright birds of omen** that awaken and illuminate the symbolic power of the Four Sides or Directions and vitalize their Hidden Winds – **Fall/West** and **Spring/East**, **Summer/South** and **Winter/North** – that define the playing field of our life.

The Old Well 19 x 29 in.



Two Bamboo Shamans read out the Changes in the muddy old **Well**, full of trapped animal spirits and haunted by the **ghosts of the past**. Released from the trap, the spirits of the Four Directions, **East**, **West**, **South** and **North** empower the **Earth** spirit, while the **Ghost Cart** collects the malignant spirits and takes them off to punishment.



The **Twin Peaks** conceal the **Dog Spirit of the Mountain** nurturing new growth and a new time, presided over by the **Calling Crane**, spirit of the inner heart. The **War Duke** chops off the heads of the demons of the past as the **scavenging birds** descend and the **bird spirit of the Old Gatekeepe**r reveals the fishes of inner riches.

## Dead Center 19 x 26 in.



Hidden deep in the **Twin Peaked Mountain**, the **antlered Bird of Transformation** rises from the **grave mound** that holds ancestral spirits.

Heart's Journey 18 x 22 in.



The icons of the Ancestral Guardians set off a zone of shamanic transformation that contains and inspires the ongoing music of the heart's journey.

The Ancient Forest 18 x 25 in.



The old Water Wheel works on an old identity, presided over by the Ancestor's Face. Spirit messengers stream in, activating the Dream Fox and releasing the revitalizing power of new growth.