Artist Statements Anna Z ILL

Soft Moon Rising

Masks invite the viewer in. The vacant eye cavities set that edge of inner and outer perspectives: "Am I looking, or am I being looked at?" As I worked on this mask I followed that edge with an interest in the juxtaposition of soft and hard materials, ambiguous animality and celestial surface treatments.

Autumn Returns

The uncertainty of life on Earth pushes us to seek balance, patterns, equilibrium. Humans long ago calculated that moment when light and dark are in perfect balance on earth. Equinox signifies for us the neverending cycle of birth and death, beginnings and endings, a moment of balance. This mask hints at the coming of darkness, while still holding earth's celestial light.

Spring Moon

The bear has been venerated as a magical-spiritual animal since Paleolithic times, residing in shamanic rites, myths, and fairytales. With its cycle of hibernation, the bear is familiar with death and is able to move between worlds. Standing in twilight freshly wakened from her "little death" in spring, the bear has been roused by the moonlight. Companion birds forming a link between heaven and earth restlessly announce the turning of seasons.