

## **Artist Statements**

### **Maryellen Hains**

#### **AUTUMN EQUINOX: Waning Owl Spirit**

Here we find a balance of elements: Earth/Air/Fire/Water as the moon's phase readies us for WINTER — our time of abundance leads to death/sleep and regrowth/birth.

#### **SPRING EQUINOX: Waxing Moon Spirit**

As the Earth shifts on its axis and the seasons rebalance, the early Spring rains give way to an abundance of new growth and the explosion of light and color that marks the rebirth of the land and the progression of Summer — Balancing Autumn's slide to Winter's darkness.

#### **SKY SPIRIT**

Birds have long been associated with the cycles of life: birth (soul is brought to earth by a bird), and in death carries it heavenward. Many cultures see the flight of the bird as a concrete as well as spiritual connector of heaven to earth — the ability to cross the thresholds between levels of awareness.

#### **AUTUMN EQUINOX: a new wave of balance**

The Autumn Equinox is the time of the Waning Crescent, where the sun's reflection suggests a dwindling arc. In this pattern of light and dark, I tried to suggest the texture of the moon's surface. With an invented telescopic eye, I created a variety of textures and craters influenced by my interest in optical mineralogy and the microscopic images of cel structures.

#### **DARK NIGHT**

During this half year of lockdown, I have not been able to work. I have not been unhappy, but I have not been curious or wanted to explore in new directions. I've reread books and watched TV re-runs. All that was new was coming through the news and that wasn't uplifting. The studio did not call to me. The garden did not call to me. I was frozen, rigid. Like the dark roof on this small house. I was locked inside. Safe, but frozen. I don't know where the clouds came from, but I know their white contrast helped open me, as they have opened the darkness in this sky. The waning crescent of the September EQUINOX is a reminder that moving towards balance is always the goal.