

Artist Statement

"In the imagination, everything can be restored, everything mended, wounds healed, stories ended." *H is for Hawk - Helen Macdonald*

The Japanese aesthetic of wabi-sabi embraces impermanence, with all the beauty and longing that it suggests, and is based on the understanding that everything in our world is mortal – people, animals, plants, and objects.

In that spirit, my work focuses on the transitory nature of time and memory, celebrating subject matter drawn from my daily life and rooted in the senses. Whether making images of highway travel, flowers just past their bloom, or recently, my beloved canine companion Beau, I acknowledge the workings of time and the inevitability of loss. Exploring the complexities of perceptual knowledge and in dialogue with art history, my paintings and drawings are acts of embodiment in the face of the ephemeral.

Colleen Kiely, 2015