

## Johanna's "The Catalogue of Imaginary Beings" Statement

"The Catalogue of Imaginary Beings is an ongoing series of work begun in 2015 that sprung from over twenty years of portraiture and collage work. Now at over 400 plates the body of work seeks to explore a range of themes in popular culture including the role of the individual in fashion, in history, in the artistic imagination and more broadly, the collective consciousness.

The series draws its inspiration from a wide spectrum of sources including Magical Realism, Surrealism, and Symbolism. And more specifically references such cultural artifacts as talismans, idols, totems, and the material detritus that surrounds all of us all the time. These characters are composites embodying notions of "the warrior", vulnerability, industry, the universal and the personal. They reference these identities as they've been depicted historically through art, literature and commerce.

The images that exist somewhere between portraiture and iconography have resonated with a host of different entities such as magazines, galleries, and others including The Metropolitan Transit Authority of New York, West Elm, Habitat Skateboards, and the Smithsonian."