

World Atlas by Maiza Hixson

Artist's Statement

I view the act of mark-making as a durational performance of embodied, aesthetic gestures occurring in material and temporal space. Blurring geographic and fleshy borders, I cast posthuman forms and hybrid anatomies as somatic bodies striving for relevance in their respective spheres of influence. Colorful chimeric figures manifest visual choreographies of the sublime and reference imagery culled from a wide variety of sources, including digital culture, nature, medical illustration, cartoons, horror films, speculative fiction, psychedelia, and punk aesthetics.

World Atlas presents a circular illustration of disparate forms that surround multiple borders and land while assuming certain positions and poses. A central solar eye peers out and illuminates the sphere. However, when seen from a different angle, the weary gilded eye may also be interpreted as a hybrid anatomical icon that re-signifies this possible image of the earth and its inhabitants. Suggestive of circular motion and change, this speculative globe destabilizes the notion of a distanced gaze and posits a more intimate map that contests “official” boundaries and authoritative representations of space.



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(pen and acrylic ink on paper, 12 × 12 inches)