

Artist Statement

Susan Hass

Creating art helps me express myself, understand nature, and connect with people. It involves focusing on the present, making confident decisions, and being on the lookout for surprises. To make a block print, I first observe animals and other aspects of nature in life and books. I draw with pencil on a surface made for printing and then carve it with handled blades. Over it, I roll ink and lay acid-free paper. I rub the paper with a bamboo disk and the back of a teaspoon, and I peek by peeling up one part at a time. The print can be a stage, with more carving to happen in an iterative fashion. Or it may not turn out. If a print is final, I paint touch ups. During the whole creative process I enjoy wondering about things like: *What do great blue herons feel while they outstretch wings? Is it how a human feels when stretching arms out to fingertips? How does it feel to be a red fox kit, with the balance and warmth of her or his tail? How are humans like all other creatures?*