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FEATURED ARTIST

Duane Slick

ARIA FOR A COYOTE OPERA



In narrative traditions, to tell the story of tragedy one must always begin by telling the ending first. I once believed that the weight of such expectations functioned as a cultural given for the artist of Native American descent. Its rules stated that we cry for a vision and place ourselves in a single grand narrative of history and representation.

...but the laughter of Coyote saturated and filled our daily lives. It echoed through the lecture halls of histories and it was so powerful and it was so distracting that I forgot my place in linear time and now I work from an untraceable present.

In this series of prints I imagined the stained paper as a backdrop for an unfolding narrative that alludes to a moment of drama or consequence. In these arias the coyote, the beaver, the snake, the bat, the turtle, the rabbit and eagle with smaller birds coexist on a dream like stage acting out the heroic effort of survival.