

ARTIST STATEMENT: PAUL MORSTAD

In the hinterland between tangled wilderness and tidy civilization is where I place the semi-fictitious narratives which make up my drawings and paintings. These narratives chronicle a semi-fictitious realm that is both water-bound and terrestrial. This world is built on the natural sciences, mythology, musicology, rumours, hyperbole and folklore.

Sometimes based on legend or dreams or just a remnant of something overheard, my compositions are charts of a kind. They map a purgatory inhabited by wandering nomads, tricky hobos, long-dead composers, defunct societies, distant relatives, extinct animals, forgotten deities, and mythical beasts who all reluctantly coexist somewhere between harmony and discord.

My thematic explorations touch on migration, encroachment, ecological decay, extirpation, and extinction. The media I use range from oil on panel, watercolour, pen and ink, and intaglio printmaking processes. I also make short, animated films with similar themes.