

Artist Statement

## Gene Gentry McMahon

*Saudade & Other Untranslatable Words*

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Thursday, August 3, 2017 - Saturday, September 2, 2017

The Northwest has been my art platform since 1978, when I received an MFA in Painting from the University of Washington. The primary focus in my studio practice is drawing, painting and printmaking, however I have completed several public and private art commissions in a variety of two and three-dimensional materials. These include clay, porcelain enamel on steel and shaped metal. In addition I have collaborated with visual and performance artists in the design and production of temporary festival, and theatrical installations. I have also taught painting, either part or full time, for most of the past 25 years, in the primary educational venues in our area: The University of Washington, Vermont College Graduate Program, Cornish College of the Arts, Bellevue College, The School of Visual Concepts, as well as Lakeside School, and the Washington State Artist in Residence Program.

My work is informed and fueled by the evolving cultural, social and political milieu of our times: by cultural manners and mores, often with a specific interest in fashion, costuming and masking, and in how we choose to 'present' ourselves. Most recently, my focus has expanded to include a passionate interest in, and concern for the physical world of our present environment: the environment resulting from the manners, mores and politics of our culture.

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Pioneer Square - Seattle | 119 Prefontaine Place South  
ZINCcontemporary.com | 206.617.7378 | @zincontemporary