

Artist Statement

All of my art work is essentially drawing. My recent pencil drawings of the nude body (mostly my own) have come after several years of work that explores a fantasized or symbolic representation of the body. From 1995 until 2005, I worked on large oil pastel drawings of imaginary, organic forms inspired from fossils and skeletal fragments. Many of these forms can be described as "vertebral trees", suggesting both the tree of life and the human body. This work can be seen on the website indicated above.

In 2005 I was pregnant with my second child. Having drawn the inside of the body for over ten years, I decided to let go of my fears and move on to the outside. Looking down at my own temporarily deformed mid-section, I wanted to convey through drawing the massive, sculptural presence of the pregnant body, to show how pregnancy feels without sentimental overtones. Hence the choice of slightly larger than life formats.

Since my pregnancy, I have continued not only to work on self portraits with and without the baby, but also to make drawings of my preteen daughter or of the baby with his father. In each one of these drawings I try to reinvent my way of seeing the body, not only through the choice of perspective and body position, but also through the drawing process, through the use of the white space of the paper to suggest volume, through experimentation with line, light and shadow, and with different ways of suggesting detail. The work may look highly realistic, but a closer inspection will reveal that it is neither proportionally nor anatomically correct. The figure is distorted and the "anatomical details" are invented. The top, bottom and sides of several of the drawings can be inversed according to the viewer's sensibility. Each time I begin a new drawing, the fundamental question is: how far into the body, into myself or the person I'm drawing, can I see with the pencil?