

The earliest idea for this project comes from prehistoric art, most specifically a small clay figure of a woman found in Willendorf Austria and made some time between 22,000 and 21,000 bce. While it is totally unknown if this piece had a purpose or what that might have been, we know why she was made. The impulse to make art is fundamental to what it is to be human, as is the impulse to tell stories. How deep are these roots? How old are the stories that we call Fairy Tales? I believe their roots are as deep as the beginning of art and that like a good piece of art, their meaning changes as human culture changes.

With this work I wanted to evoke the wildness of the first art, made when the world was dark, monsters were real and witches were more than a morality tale. And then to explore in our modern context, who are our monsters? The scientific revolution turned on the lights, so then what was thrown into shadow? Life, love, sex, death, these are unexplainable and exactly why art and stories exist. They offer context and help us understand the things about ourselves that are beyond understanding.

The witches here are at home, in the dark heart of the forest where all such creatures live. Their purpose is not to menace your dreams but to participate in the conversation we all have with the unknowable in ourselves and maybe to remind us that the true nature of life and what it is to be human is that mystery.