

NANCY HOFFMAN GALLERY

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Rat Year Portrait 2020: Counting Down

With my face covered, my visage is also concealed. We shelter-in-place, and we ourselves are confined.

Prisoners mark the passage of time on their walls: One mark, two marks, three, and then a fourth, followed by a diagonal slash to bind them up.



The Chinese character 五 is also five equal strokes.

I embody two ways of counting the same days by five; counting and counting until we are through.

Rat Year Portrait 2020: The Last Dandelion

One dandelion seed left on home base. The migratory seed can fly away at any moment. It will take its chance. A seed is a promise and a hope, even during the worst of times; of an orange sky, a killing wind, fields of flame, a plague in the air.

I wait for the seed to drift away.

Prayer: Death and Life (after G. Klimt)

Forty years ago, I was studying and making art on the floors in front of the Buddhist murals at the Dunhuang Caves along China's old Silk Road. Forty years later, I am painting after those same Dunhuang images on big canvases in my studio. The prayer is the same, for myself, for the human race, in all places and all times. There are never too many prayers in the world.