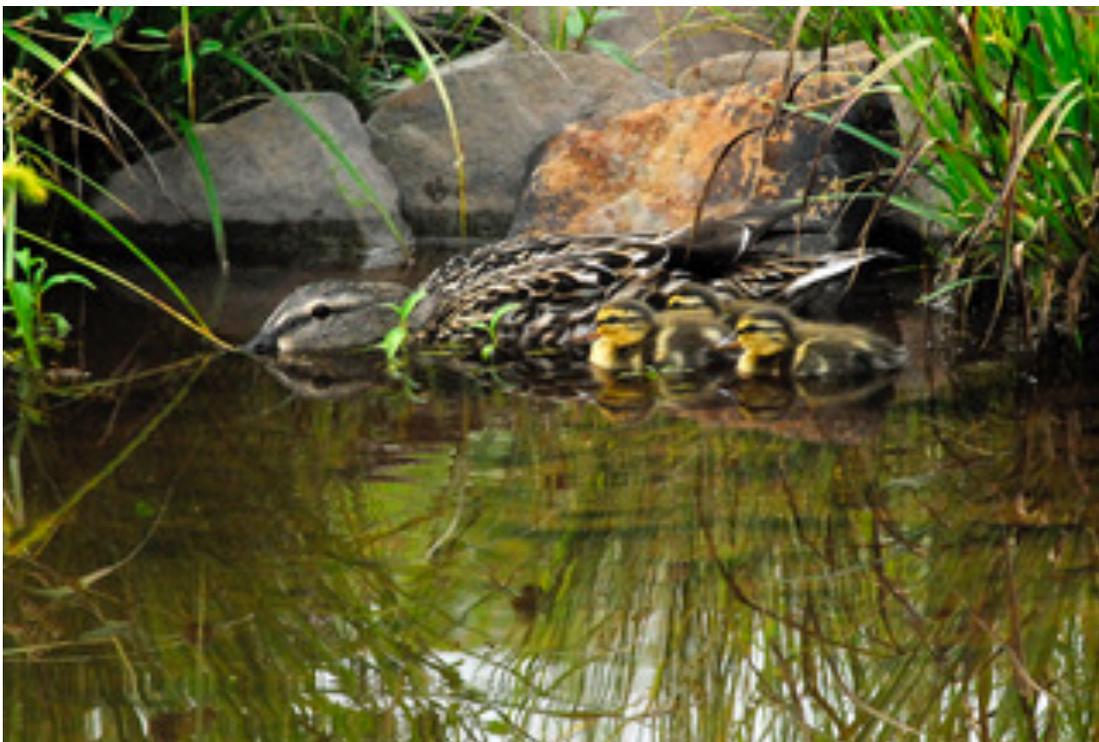


*Pondering:*

**Feminism, Mother Earth and Politics**





I just can't not bring out the most important issues right now about life on Earth: climate change, earthly use and human and animal life. I'm looking at photographs of my pond, and seeing with fascination the delicacy of life that happens therein. Quotes of Henry David Thoreau from Walden Pond who spent two years looking at the landscape and its life add to this exhibition's conversation.

*"Not till we are lost, in other words not till we have lost the world, do we begin to find ourselves, and realize where we are and the infinite extent of our relations."*

My Pondering is considering how Feminism exists in the ponds with legendary women such as Frog Woman Rock, The Muses, Spider Woman, Fish-Woman (mermaids) and the Woman and Her Bear. These watered life forms have strength and even difficult drama for women (the legends are briefly posted below) and

connect to the feminism development through the processes of tadpoles and ducklings birthing, spiders feeding, milkweed shedding seeds and hibernating protection of frozen ice.

We live in a time known as anthropocene. In other words, humans hold supremacy over the planet. For example when trains carrying gas or oil fall off the railroads and explode our news only reports what happened to people. Was the air polluted from the fires and were the levels of greenhouse gas affected? How many birds or animals died? How does an accident like this affect the bigger picture of life on earth?

Many issues come to mind for discussion about feminism and this election. Feminist art is more accepted in the art world now as several recent exhibitions have taken that up with great force. The increased number of women in the local, state and national government is benefiting to our country. To have Hillary Clinton running as the Democratic Party Candidate is a huge step for the equality and respect of women.

It's already over-time for the feminist heart in all of us to listen to Mother Earth. We need to take much stronger direction. This must be a change that many – and hopefully all – will participate in.

**Frog Woman Rock:** *(tadpole) Frog Woman had a beautiful human face and the body of a frog. She could jump 100 feet and snatch a man who she would devour after he gave her pleasure, according to the historians' report.*

<http://noehill.com/mendocino/cal0549.asp>

**Mythology of Birds:** *Birds appear in some myths as earth divers. An earth diver is an animal that plunged to the bottom of the primeval sea and brought up mud from which the earth was formed. Water birds such as ducks or swans play this role in the creation myths of many Native American peoples, including the *Mandan* of North Dakota. A Navajo myth about a great flood tells that the people fled to an upper world, leaving everything behind. The bird Turkey then dived into the lower world to rescue seeds so that the people could grow food crops.*

*.... Both Celtic and Norse mythology included tales of women who turned into swans.*

<http://www.mythencyclopedia.com/Be-Ca/Birds-in-Mythology.html>

**Spider Woman:** *a powerful earth goddess and creator who is the mother of life. Together with Tawa, the sun god, Spider Woman sang the First Magic Song. This song brought the earth, light, and life into being.*

<http://www.mythencyclopedia.com/Mi-Ni/Native-American-Mythology.html>

**Fish-Women:** *Fish-Women who had tails of fish and upper bodies of women, (the Mermaids) found two braves fishing in the deep pools of the river and one was tangled in the pool bottom. One of the braves dived down to loosen it, and the Fish-women, darting out from their hiding places under the rocks, tied the threads of the net to his toes, and held him under the water until he was drowned. Then they carried the brave away to their land beneath the river, and neither he nor the Fish-women have ever been seen since.*

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/nam/ca/lly/lly34.htm>

**The Woman and Her Bear:** *One cold winter day, the lonely old Eskimo woman was walking by the sea and she saw a fine polar bear sitting all alone in the thick ice. She brought it home and said "You will be my son", she named him Kunic and they lived together happily. Then the bear grew up and the villager men wanted to kill him and the old woman told the bear to run away where she could find him. She visited him every day. After a while the villagers grew to understand the love between the woman and the bear was strong and true. From that point on, the villagers spoke with pride and respect for of the unbroken love between the old woman and her son Kunic.*

<http://www.firstpeople.us/FP-HTML-Legends/TheWomanAndHerBear-Eskimo.html>