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Random Preoccupations

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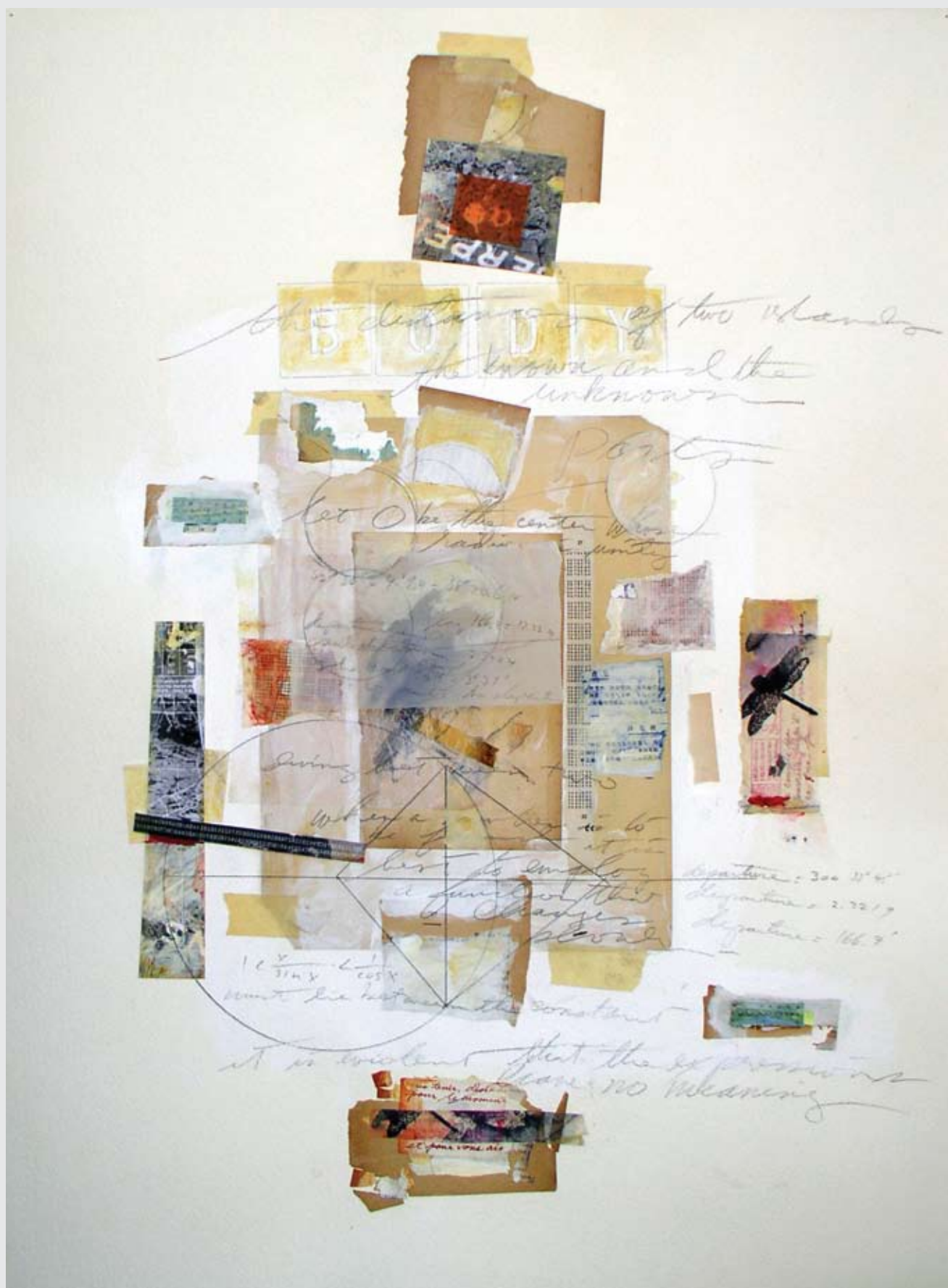
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RANDOM PREOCCUPATIONS

Mercedes Nuñez



SOME UNKNOWN VENUS, Vermillion Bird Suite, 2008, collage, oil on Arches paper.



VOUS, Dragonfly Suite, 2007, collage, acrylic on Arches paper.



RANDOM PREOCCUPATIONS, No. 1, 2008, collage, oil on Arches paper.



BELLE FOURCHE, *Sixieme*, Vermillion Bird Suite, 2008, collage, oil on steel.

The work featured here are selections from three separate suites: RANDOM PREOCCUPATIONS, 2007–present, DRAGONFLY SUITE, 2007–2008 and THE VERMILION BIRD SUITE, 2008–present. These visual suites integrate art and writing and explore an inner landscape that appears irrational and random. However, the suites are similar to how a musical composition comes together in a number of movements. Each suite focuses on the complexity of making decisions and the myriad forces that diverge and converge in order to do so. Beginning with the RANDOM PREOCCUPATIONS Suite, the original prose and art was used to emphasize the internalized thoughts and feelings and to describe the layered complexities visually—and sometimes in random, disconnected ways. The emergence of my creative writing is an essential component to the visual and conceptual purpose of the work. The structural language of the Symbolist poets and the richness

and complexities of Greek Mythology inspires the inclusion of text, mathematical expressions and astronomical configurations as a means of storytelling. The work expresses the influence of numbers and constellations over a person's decisions. DRAGONFLY SUITE deals specifically with the cycle of the dragonfly, which begins in the watery depths, then emerges past this surface; it is an emblem of balance, a metaphorical cycle of re-awakenings—both life and love—beneath the forces of the cosmos. The VERMILION BIRD SUITE is named after one of the Four symbols of the Chinese constellations. In the Taoist five-elemental system, the Vermilion Bird of the South is a mythological spirit creature representing the fire-element in the southern direction. The suite relates star patterns such as “chariot,” and “ghost” to life's own crusading rhythms.