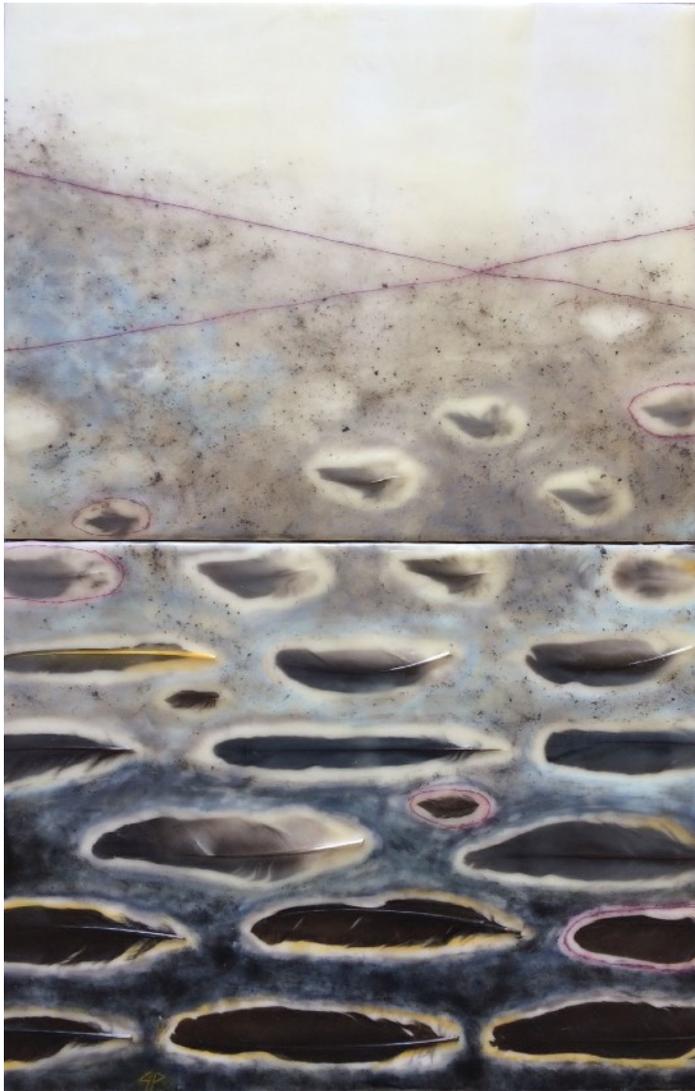


JENNIFER PRETZEUS (NM)



Empty Skies, encaustic, feathers, ash, charcoal, pastel, oil paint, on cradled board, 11 x 14 inches

According to the National Audubon Society, global warming is the greatest threat to birds and other wildlife in human history. North America has already lost 3 billion birds — nearly a third of its total avian population — over the past half century. If we continue on the current trajectory, the situation will get much worse in the coming decades, with 2/3 of all birds (almost 400 species) on the continent projected to be at risk. Warming temperatures, shifting seasons, changing precipitation, and rising sea levels are dramatically disrupting the behavior of our feathered friends and the ecosystems that support them.

President of the American Bird Conservancy, Mike Parr, says that “birds are the canaries in the coal mine. It’s indicative of a broader biodiversity and wildlife issue. We need to pay attention to it now.”

In this piece, *Empty Skies*, I utilized bird feathers and ash to represent this immense loss.

Artist Statement
Jennifer Pretzeus