

*Paternal Instinct*  
Artist Statement

Certain men are not satisfied with being ‘the provider’; a role that society has historically identified for fathers in a family. My earliest memories revolve around my father and the kinship we shared. Although both my parents were active in my upbringing, it was my father that instinctively understood and responded to my needs, fears and desires. He was my emotional guide into adulthood.

Interestingly, I was not conscious of my father’s significant role as ‘nurturer’ until I left home for advanced art studies. It was the process of looking at my own sketchbook that revealed the strong subconscious alliance I felt toward my father; the equivalent of the maternal bond that most of my peers seemed to possess.

Of course men are not physically equipped with breasts that provide nourishment; but certainly the capacity to nurture resides within the male psyche. We can speculate whether it is instinctual or not, but the fact is, men can and do devote themselves to the upbringing of children within our society.

Thankfully, I was able to recognize and celebrate my father’s distinctiveness before his death in March 2008. This body of works is dedicated to my father and other men that share his capacity toward paternal instincts.

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