

L J Douglas

Cinderella, 2005

Artist's book

8.5" x 11.25"

L. J. Douglas

Artist's Statement

My choice of using Charles Perrault's version of Cinderella as my #510 story stems from my exposure, as a child, to Perrault's version of this myth. In his tale, I see the role of the character Cinderella being extended by the reader of the story as they insert themselves into that character. In my augmented version, I wanted to help the reader understand the motivation of the characters so the 'drama' of the extended family could be better understood. When inventing the internal dialogue I choose to create a family dynamic centered on an emotional bullying stepmother (and a passive father) as the central psychological trigger for the rest of the internal dynamics of the characters. By contrast, the fairy godmother represents the first functional adult Cinderella comes into contact with who is willing to help the child.

I choose a simple approach centered on imagining the internal narrative of all the characters in the story. I used the syntax and language structure that mimic Perrault's version to maintain coherence.

The cover and fly page images refer to wallpaper and fabric from the time set in Perrault's story. The illustrations are originally from Bowles and Carver of London, reprinted by Dover that have been digitally colored and altered.

A "lift-up" device was employed to increase the reference to children's books but also as a physical structure to emphasize the psychological break from the original text.

My intent was not to make a "deep" reading of the story but to provide a layered reading the viewers could elaborate on themselves.