

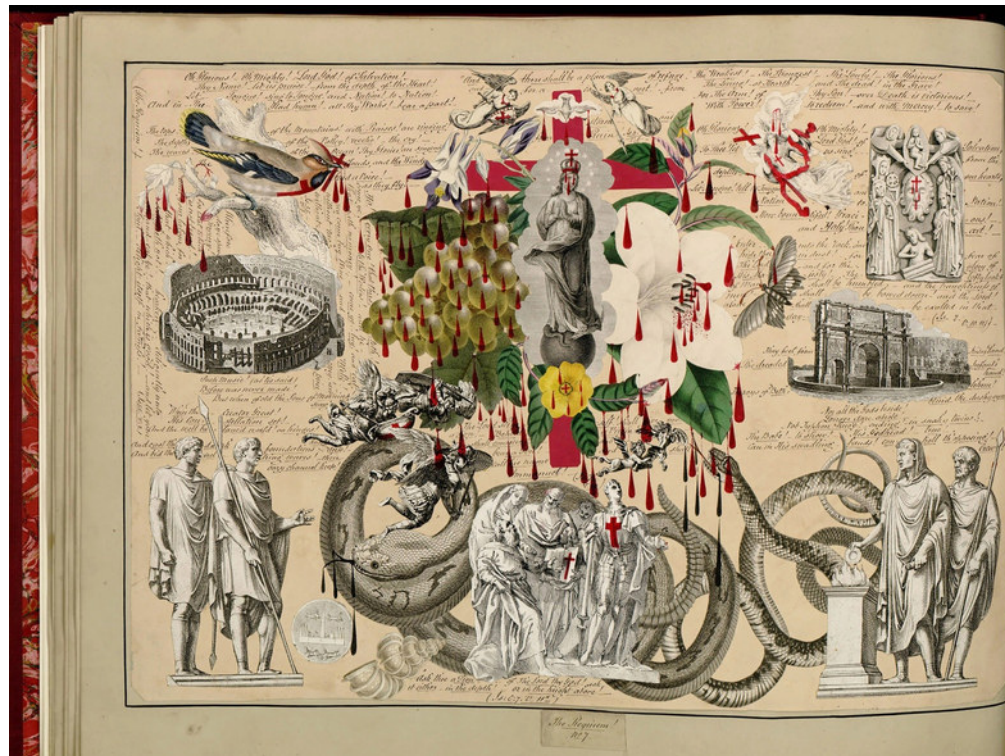
SELECTIONS FROM  
THE ANTHROPOCENE BLOOD BOOK



CLAYTON CAMPBELL



The digital art works in this book were made in 2024 and are selections from a new series *The Anthropocene Blood Book*. They bring together persistent interests of mine that began when I spent time in London in the 1970's. I was able to explore Victorian Romanticism that often expressed a sense of escapism while visiting themes of the supernatural and irrational. From this era I studied paintings and prints, illustrated books of fairy tales, and ornate visual compositions of cartography. I was influenced by different artists but especially Richard Dadd's wonderful painting, *The Fairy Feller's Masterstroke*. I learned of the work of the symbolist artist George Frederic Watts, the engravings by William Blake, Samuel Palmer, and William Hogarth, and especially how their moral narratives were often thinly veiled social-political commentary. Finally, the art of Victorian decoupage or scrapbook making led me to find the strange *Victorian Blood Book*. It is unique, made in 1854 by the British Reverend John Bingley Garland as a wedding gift for his daughter. The use of Victorian decoupage would later evolve into collage and montage in Dada, Surrealism, Fantasy, and Digital art.



Page from the Victorian Blood Book



The Fairy Feller's Masterstroke, Richard Dadd

Regarding the use of the term, Anthropocene; it is a slang term for the decline of the planet in our lifetime. Our current epoch is called the Holocene, which began 11,700 years ago after the last major ice age. As we become more aware of the speed of climate change and the vast extinction of species that is occurring, some scientists think we have entered an entirely different era when human activity is having a great impact on carbon and methane in the Earth's atmosphere. They suggest this is the beginning of the new Anthropocene era dating to 1945 when humans tested the first atomic bomb.

The metaphor of blood, as used in the *Victorian Blood Book* and as I also intend in my work, is ancient and historically sacred as a life giving/death dealing substance. Blood sits at the center of many kinds of subjects, both practical, in terms of medicine and lineage, and spiritual, as a physical and ritual means of accessing the divine. In my series, blood literally drips with myriad symbolisms.

*The Anthropocene Blood Book* is a visual evocation of the un/reality of the Anthropocene, our time of accelerating deterioration in the planet's well being. Using the obscure *Victorian Blood Book* as a starting point, each of my pieces include drips of blood from one of the *Victorian Blood Book's* pages, layered over my original digital art work.

*The Anthropocene Blood Book* is centered around two overarching concerns that have engaged me throughout my lifetime- the degradation of the planet, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons and waste. Embedded in my artwork is a deeply held belief in the possibility of the spiritual regeneration of our world.

All of the images in the book are Untitled, measuring 44" x 44".

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Prison, which  
the picture, of  
in all points  
(Job 4:15)

Job 4:19

with the  
dark forms  
me I am  
And I am  
work of my  
I am the  
I make  
the Lord! - do all  
the Lord! - do all

Thine! that overcometh! - will I make a Pillar!  
in the temple! of my God! - and he shall go out  
no more! - and I will write upon him! - the  
Name! of my God! - and the name of  
the City! of my God! which is now Jeru-  
salem! which cometh down out  
of Heaven! from my God! and  
I will write upon him, my new  
Name! - (Rev. 21:3)

power! in such! the  
he makes familiar! - to  
And shows him! - the





























