

***EarthBound: Belonging to the Earth***

Barbara Brown

My aim is to construct images that serve to enhance memory and spark the senses. I photograph the ephemeral constructions and assemblages of natural materials which I make. Image-making in this way is a collaborative engagement with the natural world. Through my art practice I seek to bring a focus to our fragile, ephemeral world and how we relate to it.

*EarthBound* offers a series of four images of the human body in relation to the earth. The images track the seasons from early spring through summer and to the final end in autumn as the leaves and flowers finish their lifecycle and return to the earth. *EarthBound* imagines the human body in relation to the growth patterns of the earth. My intention is to remember all those ones who have gone before, with an awareness that death feeds life. This concept is seen in the health of the garden where decomposing plants from the previous seasons become the food for the current growing season.

As a challenge to the idea of land/body opposition, these earth informed figures dwell in the space between nature and culture partaking in both. They acknowledge their origins, they return to source, as well as flourishing in-between. Remembering that soil is composed of all those ones who failed to live forever. We too are part of this cycle; we are bound to the earth; we are nourished by it and finally return to it.

Our western cultural tendency is to read both text and images from left to right, so the story begins with Spring on the far left, in a flush of greenery, then the colours of autumn follow, and finally the browns of the remains of a season of growth, eventually returning to the earth.