Statement

My work is about exploration: of going from the unknown to the known; about wanderlust and wonder.

Maps, while taken for granted, are fascinating representations of the world. No one knows when man first got the idea of describing place and the relationship between here and there, but it surfaced independently in many parts of the world. From the South Pacific, where sticks lashed together described wind patterns and coral or shells depicted islands, to pre-Colombian Mexico, where a line of footprints designated roads, there has been a desire to order and describe the world. The ancient Babylonians endeavored to make a world map in the 6th c. BC. What they didn't know, they made up. Maps indeed are not reality, but instead, selectively represent it. They show where man has made his mark on nature and as such are symbolic; a way of organizing and categorizing the physical world. Furthermore, they provide a way to make personal knowledge into transmittable knowledge.

These collages suggest a number of things of a personal nature; paths, journeys, and finding one's way. They can also be seen as claustrophobic visions of overdevelopment. I have chosen collage because of its transformative nature, possibilities for poetic expression, limitless permutations of unexpected (re)configurations, as well as the engaging activity of hunting, gathering and recycling materials.

Barbara Woodall