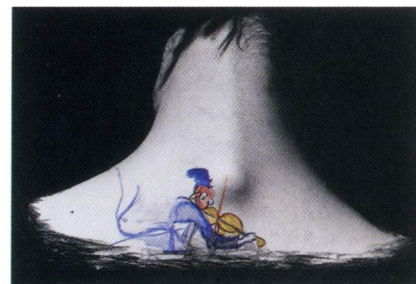


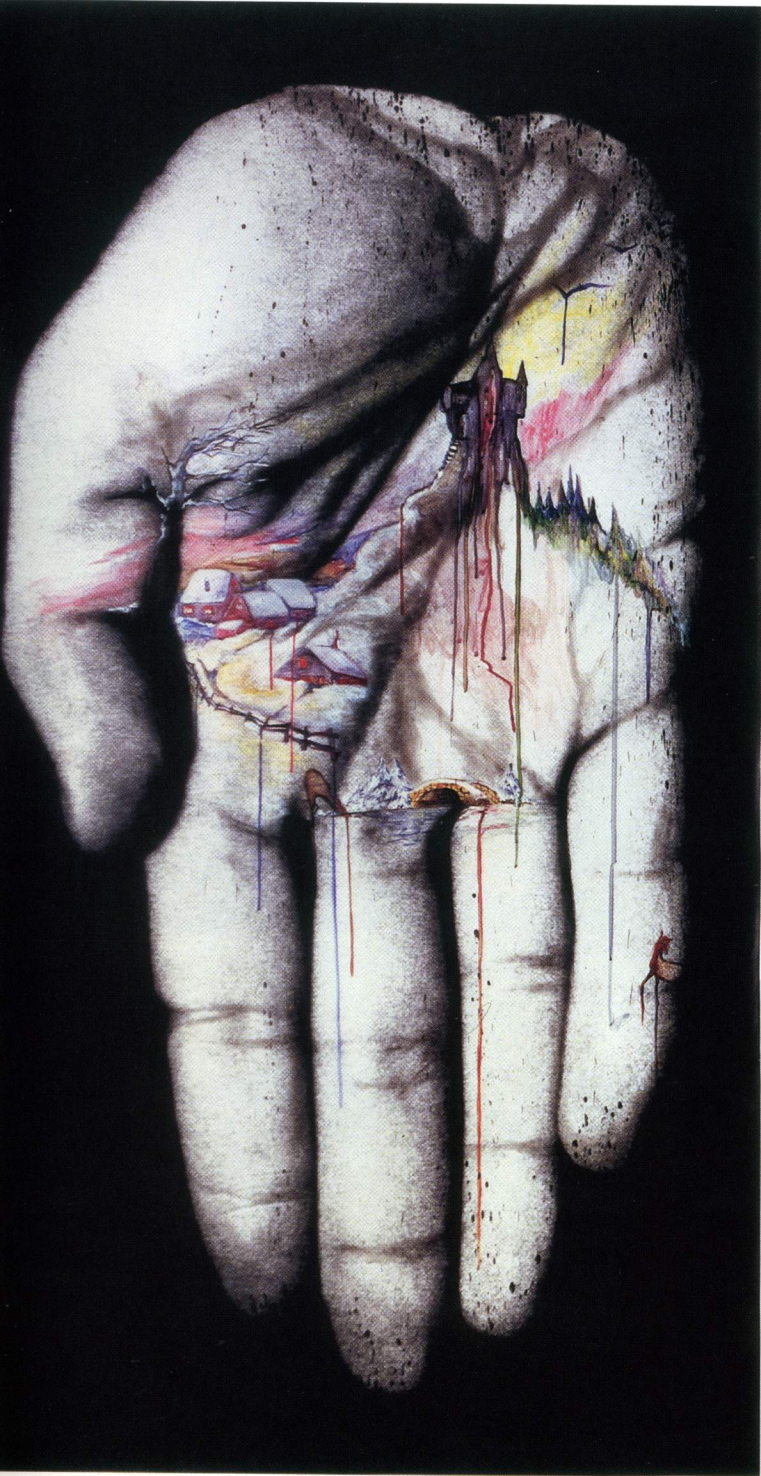
# topography of the body, topography of the soul

In a short space of time, the three series *Mes Trophées* (My Trophies, 1986–88), *Mes Ouvrages* (My Works, 1987–88), and *Mes Vœux* (My Vows, 1988–89) were to reconfigure the vocabulary of Annette Messager's whole oeuvre. Though not severing every link with her earlier work, and taking a lead from the final series of the *Chimaeras*, *Effigies*, and *Pièces Montées* especially, these pieces amounted to a new beginning, something like a new dynasty. They involved taking components from earlier series, cutting them up, separating them, giving them their own identity, and reutilizing them. By focusing specifically on a number of features from earlier works—just as she had, albeit on a more modest scale, with the *Veils*, which she had invested with an individual autonomy and dimension—Annette Messager radically accelerated their creative potential by starting to produce various series in parallel. Hence, the small hand-drawn alterations to photographs, that she used in *Effigies* to introduce variety into the figures and in *Veils* to build up motifs, find in *Trophies* a vast arena in which to proliferate. In *Vows* and *Works*, fragmentary photographs of parts of the body first attain autonomy and then join forces in a constellation of small-scale compositions. The use of entire walls as the picture ground and of words inscribed directly on them—an approach first tried in *Chimaera Traps*—received more systematic treatment in *Works* and then in *The Little Effigies*. As these complex operations ramified further, they were accompanied by new formulations: the photographic emblems in *Trophies*, and the hand-written notes and little frames bound with a strip of black adhesive tape that occur in the *Works* series are employed as recurrent building blocks that appear constantly in subsequent works, to the point of becoming a personal “trademark.”

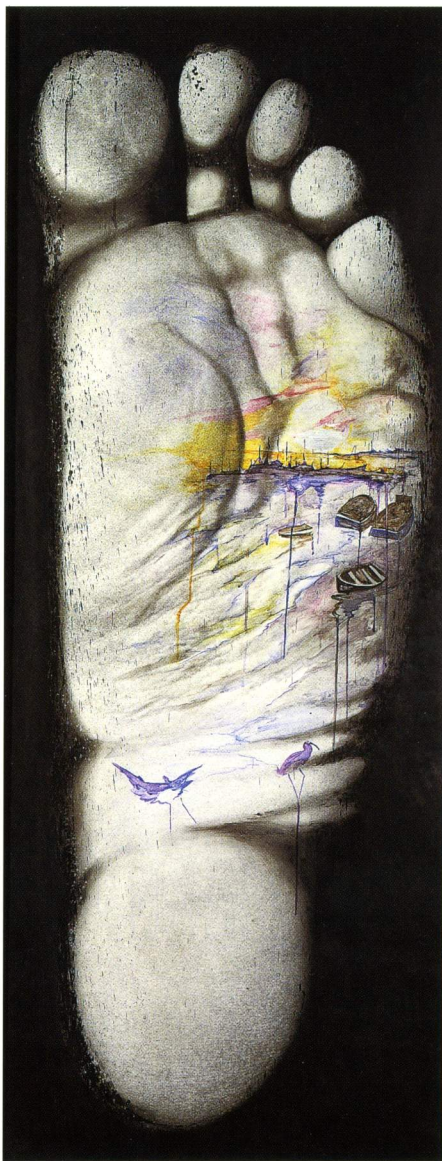


*My Trophies*, 1988. Photographs, overdrawn.

From top to bottom, 70 × 51 cm, 25 × 25 cm, 58 × 49 cm.



*My Trophies (Mes trophées)*, 1986–88. Acrylic, charcoal, pastel on photographs. 206 x 170 cm. Fonds National d'Art Contemporain Collection.



Annette Messager, *Mes Tropheés (My Trophies)*, 1987  
Acrylic, charcoal, and pastel on two gelatin silver prints, 81 1/2 x 67 inches (overall)

