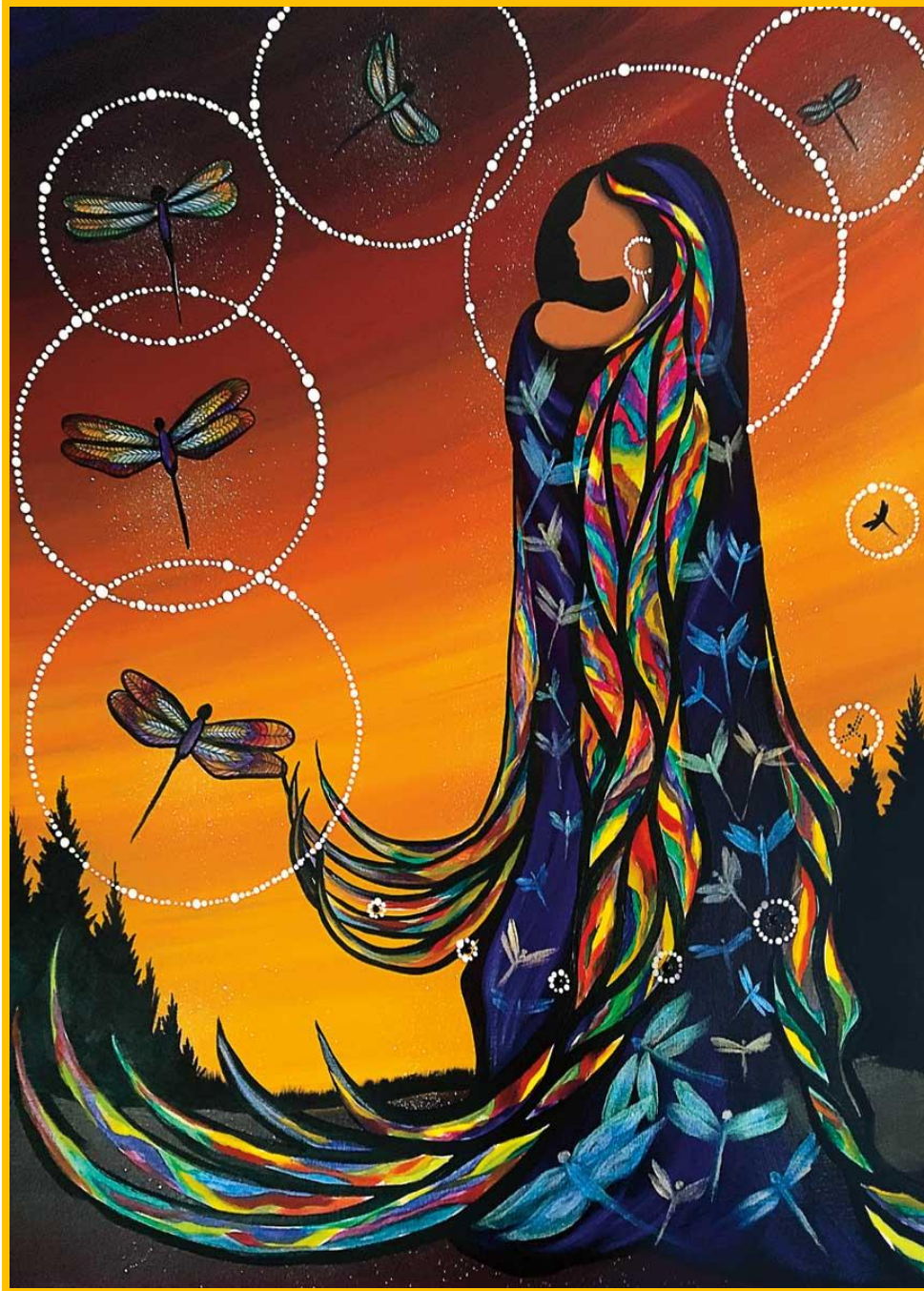


# Dragonfly - Transformation



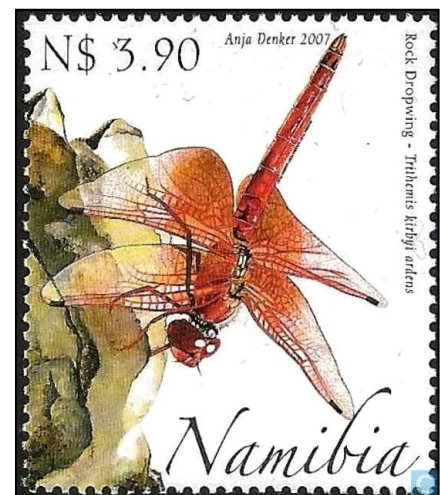
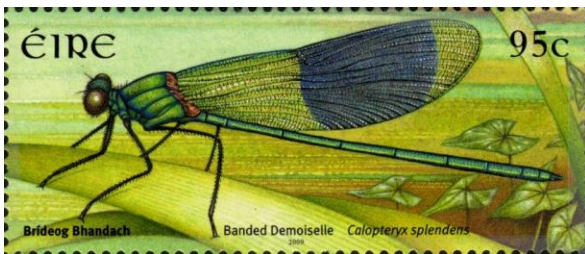
**"Transformation", by Betty Albert**

(<https://sa-cinn.com/betty-albert-artcards-prints/transformation-pod1618/>)



Most every culture in the world has mythology and folklore about the Dragonfly. After all, it's been around for over 300 million years and that's time enough for mystique, magic, and myth to develop all over the globe. Dragonflies have also inspired artists in every medium.

The dragonfly is generally a symbol of change, of transformation and self-realization; also adaptability, joy and lightness, protection, strength, wisdom and an invitation to go deeper.







Artist: Takahashi Biho

“The Japanese trap dragonflies with weighted silk threads because they treasure their association with the virtues of happiness, courage, and strength. [They are] associated with positive virtues...in a lot of Asian countries.

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/6146/20150409/always-more-to-say-about-dragonflies>

“The dragonfly is one of the symbols of happiness attributed to Feng Shui... which relates to metaphysics. The term means “wind-water”, and it is a system of Chinese philosophy that connects people with their environment in terms of energy flow. According to the laws of Feng Shui, the dragonfly heralds new beginnings and prosperity. Its gentle and delicate movements are thought to signify change in direction.”

<https://www.legendsandmyths.net/dragonflies-their-symbolism-in-feng-shui/>



In European countries there's a negative association with dragonflies. For instance, the Celtic culture gave them names like “horse stinger”, “ox viper” and “bee butcher”, even though we now know dragonflies don't sting.

In Sweden, it is believed the presence of the dragonfly around you indicates impending injury or tragedy. Various cultures' language may play a part in this dark dragonfly symbolism. In Romania, the word “drac” means both dragon and the devil, and when combined with folklore, can easily result in evil implications for the dragon-fly. <http://anniehorkan.com/legend-of-the-dragonfly/>

From Germany to England, people associate dragonflies with the devil, giving them nicknames like “water witch,” “hobgoblin fly,” “devil's horse,” and even “snake killer.”

Dragonflies are “connected to Freya in Norse mythology. She's the goddess of love, war, and fertility. Some think they became her symbol because mating dragonflies form the shape of a heart.”

In the Native American Hopi and Pueblo tribes, the dragonfly was considered a medicine animal, associated with healing and transformation, whose spirit was often called upon by medicine men and women.



Dragonfly ~ Dii gwaa 1 by April White

Killing a dragonfly was considered highly taboo in the Pueblo tribes. To the Navajo tribe, the dragonfly is a symbol of water, and dragonfly images frequently appear in sacred sand paintings to represent the element of water. In Plains Indian traditions, dragonflies are symbols of protection or even invincibility, and pictures of dragonflies were often painted on war shirts and tepee covers to ward off danger and injury.” <http://www.native-languages.org/legends-dragonfly.htm>



Seed Pot with Dragonfly – Acoma Pottery by Carolyn Concho

“The Zuni ... have strong dragonfly lore they honor with their painted and woven dragonfly motifs. The coming of the dragonflies in summer when the corn tassels bloom signifies the continued blessings for the Zuni grounded in their dragonfly myths.” <http://anniehorkan.com/legend-of-the-dragonfly/>



“Ask Zuni about 'Dragonfly' (Shumak'olo:wa) and they will tell you that Dragonfly is the messenger who carries prayers to Spirit World. The double-winged form of Dragonfly is sometimes referred to as the “Pueblo Cross.” Dragonfly is recognized as a sign of water, which is where this remarkable creature lays its eggs. Where there is Dragonfly, there is water; where there is water, there is life. Dragonfly is a skilled aerial acrobat, and like the mind, can move quickly in any given direction to accomplish its goal. Being mindful of dragonfly can help us guide us to our own positive and transcendent goals. The lovely, often-iridescent colors of the wings remind us that the mundane existence that we commonly accept as the only reality may be an illusion.”

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/6146/20150409/always-more-to-say-about-dragonflies>



Gary S. Custer – Navajo Sterling Silver & Turquoise Dragonfly



Dragonfly Comb, Art Nouveau 1904 – by Lucien Gaillard.



Louis Comfort Tiffany Dragonfly Lamp - Reproduction



Sculptural Metalsmithing by Dimitri Gerakaris

## The Dragonfly -- by Louise Bogan\*

You are made of almost nothing  
But of enough  
To be great eyes  
And diaphanous double vans;  
To be ceaseless movement,  
Unending hunger,  
Grappling love.  
Link between water and air,  
Earth repels you.  
Light touches you only to shift to iridescence  
Upon your body and wings.  
Twice-born, predator,  
You split into the heat.  
Swift beyond calculation or capture  
You dart into the shadow  
Which consumes you.  
You rocket into the day.  
But at last, when the wind flattens the grasses,  
For you, the design and purpose stop.  
And you fall  
With the other husks of summer.



*\*Louise Bogan, one of America's finest lyric poets, was born in Livermore Falls. A resident of Manhattan, she often returned to Maine, which is perhaps the source of today's poem.*

*DRAGONFLY - Spiritually embodies the stripping away of all negativity that holds us back, helping us to achieve our dreams and goals. Dragonfly is the keeper of dreams, the energy within that sees all of our true potential and ability. Dragonfly inspires spiritually and creatively and helps us on the path of discovery and enlightenment. Dragonfly reminds us that anything is possible.*

<https://www.universeofsymbolism.com/symbolic-dragonfly-meaning.html>

