Creative Work: Veneration

**Artist:** Katherine Culatta  
**Faculty Mentor:** Robert Dunning  
**Affiliation:** University of North Carolina at Asheville  
**Dimensions:** 16 x 22 inches each (3 prints)  
**Medium:** Stone Lithography

**ARTIST STATEMENT:** The *Veneration* series is a portion of a larger body of work exploring the projection of human emotion onto the natural world. Natural processes are misunderstood when humans respond emotionally to organisms that operate outside the human frame of reference, and interpret events in terms of human values. In the series, images of bird species that are culturally demonized (the blue jay, the raven, and the turkey vulture) are juxtaposed with the familiar symbol of the halo, which indicates righteousness and sanctity. The birds’ behavior and appearance are adaptations to their environment, and as such transcend human notions of ugliness and beauty.
Veneration, Katherine Culatta, 2014