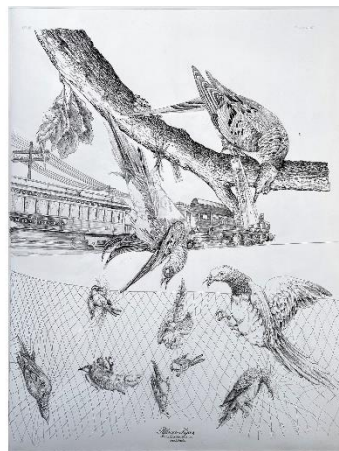
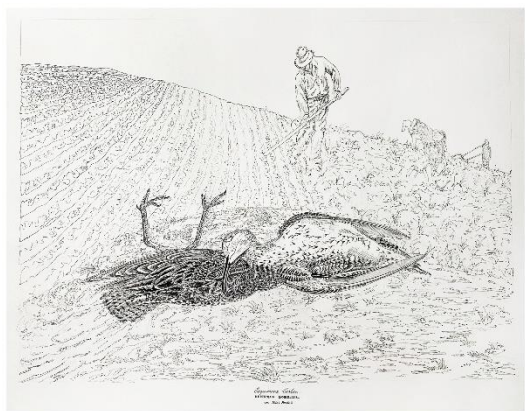


Sabbatical Final Report – Larry Kline

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to take a sabbatical in Fall 2022. Below, I have outlined some work accomplished during this time. These projects were presented at both the Department Meeting on January 24, 2023 during faculty development week and the Art Department faculty meeting led by Jennifer Bennett on February 7th, 2023.

Last semester, I received a sabbatical so that I could devote time to some specific projects, some of which had been started but not completed due to time constraints. I identified two main projects and a series of potential projects that ended up leading me down some interesting paths. To understand the breadth and direction of this work, you should also understand that my wife, Debby, and I collaborate as artists and have done so since 2000.

The first plan was to move ahead with **The Extinction Project**, a series of drawings updating John Audubon's **Birds of America**. We wanted to document the birds that have since become extinct or endangered, a continuation of a project that we started when we were artists in residence at the Museum of Natural History a few years ago. The museum has a copy of this rare and valuable book, known as the Double Elephant Folio, and it was the inspiration for this project. Prior to the sabbatical, we had completed two drawings, the Carolina Parakeet and the Great Auk. We managed to complete three more drawings during sabbatical, the Esquimaux Curlew, Passenger Pigeon and Pied Duck. Each bird has their own dark history and particular reasons for their extinction. In many cases, the death of the final known example of the species is well documented. Some of these stories are incorporated into the drawings, as well as toe tags with accession #s, so that viewers can find the original specimens in the museum collection. Each drawing is approximately 30" x 40", and meticulously drawn in the style of the original Audubon engravings with our twists on their revised histories.



Another of my goals was to create and install two sculptural pieces at UCSD School Of Medicine, where my wife and I are the artists-in-residence. Over sabbatical, we created two large pieces, each about 8 feet tall. **Toxic Cocktails** is a ceramic sculpture that addresses medicines removed from the market by the FDA. We also created a video documenting part of the process of creating the work which can be accessed via a QR code on the didactic label in the display case. The second sculpture, **A Brief History of the World in Extruded Plastic**, is an ironic take on the history of the world. Both works are on permanent display in the biomedical sciences building. The artworks were also published in the School of Medicine's annual report.



Also, last year, the Director of the anatomy department asked us to write a book about the class that we team-teach at UCSD. It's a drawing class for first year med students, but we are also charged with helping the students maintain a sense of empathy, which plays an important role in patient care and outcomes. My wife is a cancer patient and part of her medical regimen includes flying out twice a year to Philadelphia as part of a clinical trial at Thomas Jefferson University. One of these appointments was over sabbatical. When her oncologist learned of our book and our class, he introduced us to his mentor, Dr. Joseph Gonnella, Dean of Thomas Jefferson University medical school and the author of an empathy scale that is used for medical students around the world. We hoped to get answers to some poignant questions for our book, but instead it became a brainstorming session on how we can work together. We may begin by applying the Jefferson Empathy Scale to our class to research the connections between art and empathy. Around the same time, we were contacted by another organization to see if we would consider creating anatomical drawings. We told them that we were not anatomists, but that we were willing to learn if they were patient, so we began working with an anatomist from San Diego State University and another from University of Miami to create approximately 100 drawings and have nearly completed the project. It is an incredibly challenging process, but quite exciting for us. As a result of this project, we were contacted by a CBS News reporter who was doing a story about anatomical artists who were making more inclusive drawings. When we first started researching anatomical drawings and looked through the printed anatomy books and online sources, we were struck by the lack of representation of people of color. For this reason, whenever flesh is visible in our drawings, we usually choose to make the figures other than white. We were interviewed via zoom and it is expected that the program will air during Black History Month.

We have also been creating a video piece in collaboration with Eleanor Antin, a world-renowned artist. We've completed our script, created costumes and stage props and filming has begun. We are currently looking for a location to install some sculptural work that's meant to act as a stage set for the shoot. The resulting video may be shown at major museums both in the US and abroad, which is an amazing opportunity for me as an artist.

Implications for the individual:

The personal implications of these projects have been addressed above. Below are some of the implications on a larger level.

Implications for the discipline: The art world has embraced the work of interdisciplinary artists, especially those who work with science and technology. The projects that I am posing fit within this

milieu. The revision of J.J. Audubon's Birds of America is a great way to engage audiences on issues related to climate and habitat change and other instances of human intervention in the environment. To my knowledge, no other artist has had access to this rare volume housed at San Diego Natural History Museum and I have the unique opportunity to engage with the museum's curators and resident scientists.

The idea of an artist embedded in a medical school is also a rare opportunity. In addition to the sculptures that I created for the medical school, I began research to write a book about art, empathy and medicine. With so little scholarship on the subject, it is groundbreaking to create something of substance through the publication of a book.

Contribution to the educational goals of the department: Both of my intended projects should benefit students by helping them understand the limitless possibilities of methodologies for creating art. Both projects chosen for my sabbatical are combinations of art and science, which most people think of as mutually exclusive endeavors. Exposure to work that explores new media, new ideas and new forms of visual engagement are critical to prepare students for the art world as it exists today. Being able to talk with them about such projects also shows a pathway to sustainable careers in the arts.

Many of my experiences as an artist outside of the classroom find their way into my teaching. I tell my students that art is about problem-solving. This is true whether they are learning to work with traditional materials and techniques that are "new" to them or pursuing concepts with less historical precedence. When I branch out into new directions or new media, I bring what I learn to the classroom. My experiences add insight into the process of facing and working through technical challenges as they arise, rather than settling for something easier to accomplish.

Contribution to the educational goals of the college: All of the institutions involved in these projects are quite prestigious, and it is important for Grossmont College to have instructors with ties to such outside institutions. Grossmont College also benefits from having the best trained and most experienced employees who are familiar with the current state of the art in any discipline. In the art world, those trends include art that deals with issues of social justice, collaboration and interdisciplinary projects, with a special focus on science and technology. I work in all of these modes.

Contribution to the educational goals of the district and community: My projects have ramifications for both the local and global community. The Audubon project helps to draw attention to environmental crises, while the School of Medicine projects help to cultivate a greater sense of thoughtfulness and empathy in young doctors, giving all of these projects a potential for meaningful impact on the community. Each of these projects are or will be publicly displayed, and will reach a wide range of audiences. It is also important to recognize that my students are also part of this diverse community, and they have varied exposure to art. Some students regularly visit museums and galleries and take other arts classes to inspire them. Other students have limited exposure. I have found that some of my students are inspired by seeing that art can extend far beyond the traditional boundaries of the studio and the gallery.

ABSTRACT: LARRY KLINE

My sabbatical activities met my need for professional and personal growth in several ways. My project with the San Diego Natural History Museum is important on the most basic level because it is always prestigious for artists to be connected with museums. Museums document our current understanding of the world around us and give us a sense of history and our place in the universe. The Double Elephant Folio of Birds of America is considered one of the world's most rare and valuable books and it was thrilling to work with it. I was able to create a set of large drawings updating the Birds of America, documenting species that have since gone extinct since it's publication. The revision of this tome engages audiences on issues of climate and habitat change and other instances of human intervention in the environment.

My project with UCSD School of Medicine also has a strong personal and professional connection. During sabbatical I was able to create two large sculptures that explore the nexus of art, science, and medicine for permanent installation in the Biomedical Sciences building. I was pleased to hear that they were also published in the School of Medicine's annual report. Engaging in these complex projects challenges me as an artist and makes me a better instructor. I always tell my students that art is about problem-solving, and just as importantly, that one should learn everything possible as one never knows what effect it will have on artistic practice.

Other Projects: I also began work on a book about a class that my wife and I team-teach at UCSD. It's a drawing class for first year med students that is designed to help students maintain a sense of empathy, which plays an important role in patient care and outcomes. I began another project, working with anatomists from San Diego State University and University of Miami to create approximately 100 anatomical drawings and have nearly completed the project. I also worked on a video piece in collaboration with Eleanor Antin, a world-renowned artist. The resulting video may be shown at major museums both in the US and abroad, which is an amazing opportunity for me as an artist. The anticipated benefits to the students, department, college, district, and community are addressed in the final report.