

Barbara A. Robertson

Statement 2018

I am in the process of developing of a series of work inspired by two separate yet seminal influences in my life: my present experience of witnessing my city's transformation through rampant and rapid building development, and Constructivism, a one hundred year old art and architectural movement that captured my imagination as a socially conscious student. My new work addresses the impact of Seattle's current rapid growth, while staying rooted in the art historical context of Constructivism, which rejects the idea of art for art's sake and passionately believes that art, architecture and design can be employed consciously for positive social change, or simply to serve and support the community. At the beginning of the last century, like today, technological advances were embraced and were supposed help promote a more positive future.

We are in a very similar cultural moment today to the one the original Constructivists faced after the first World War; we believe that technological advances will eventually create a better world, but we are challenged by pervasive consumerism and a focus on personal gain, often at the expense of our own communities. In Seattle, our environment is constantly changing architecturally and thus spatially, in dramatic ways. Landmarks and other more modest historic structures are disappearing, so we no longer have them as a touchstone for our own history, our memories and our sense of cultural continuity.

The images in this new series of drawings paintings and animations, in part, question how imagination, geometry and structure relate to our physical, and cultural environment. How does rapid change effect our sense of community and our sense of place? I am developing these ideas through mixed media works on paper, relief paintings on panel and several related animated films.

The works on paper images are constructed from photos that I take of common materials such as wood, stone or brick surfaces and then print these images on lightweight Japanese paper using a large format Epson printer. Using a drawing as a framework, and acrylic painting as the base, the wood or stone paper image is then cut into shapes that form the structure of the image.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

"Architectonic," Site specific animation installation at Oxbow, Seattle, Nov-December 2017

"Snap" Davidson Galleries, Seattle, WA, June 2013

Trykk 17 Art Center, Stavanger, Norway, September 2012

E4c electronic gallery, 4Culture, Seattle, WA, February 2012

Aprojectspace, "Gray Map Installation" Seattle, WA, January/March, 2012

Johnston Architects, Seattle, WA, November/December 2011

Davidson Galleries, Seattle, WA, June, 2010

Davidson Contemporary, Seattle, WA, June, 2008

Davidson Galleries, Seattle, WA, November, 2005

Davidson Galleries, Seattle, WA, June, 2004

University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, New Works, January 2004

Selected Group Exhibitions

“Familiar Faces & New Voices: Surveying Northwest Art,” Tacoma Art Museum, May 2017-summer 2019

3rd GLOBAL PRINT 2017 - International Printmaking Biennial Exhibition, Duoro, Portugal, August and September, 2017

“SAUDADE and Other Untranslatable Words,” Zinc Gallery, Seattle, August, 2017

“Structural Configurations” Seattle Art Museum Gallery, Seattle, June, 2017

"Thought Patterns," Bainbridge Island Art Museum, Winslow, WA, Spring 2016

“In Context,” Seattle Art Fair satellite exhibition, Seattle, August, 2016

"Geo Codes; Mapping A Practice in the Post Print Age," China Art Academy, Hangzhou, China, Fall, 2015

"The Intersection Between Science, Art and Technology" American Embassy in Bern, Switzerland, 2015-2017

"Women and Print," Scripps College, Claremont, CA, September, 2014"

“Ink This: Contemporary Print Arts in the Northwest, Tacoma Art Museum, June 2014

Electronic Art, Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA Jan-March, 2014

“Altered States,” Arc Gallery, San Francisco, April, 2014

“Bridging the Gap,” City College of San Francisco, February, 2014

“The Best of the Northwest,” Tacoma Art Museum, January, 2013

“Ontologies,” Eleftherias Art Center, Athens, Greece, October 2012

“Digital Connections,” SAM Gallery, Seattle, September 2012

“Competitive Intangibles,” University of Washington Lawrence Gallery, July 2012

“New Work by Gallery Artists,” Davidson Galleries, Seattle, May, 2012

“Electron Salon,” LACDA, Los Angeles, CA, January, 2012

“Snap to Grid,” LACDA, Los Angeles, CA, December, 2011

“Blurring the Lines,” Davidson Galleries, Seattle, October, 2011

“Collecting for the Future,” Tacoma Art Museum, June 2011

"Contemporary Drawing in the Northwest," Gage Academy of Art, Seattle, May -June, 2011.

“Washington Art Consortium Collection of Northwest Art on Paper,” Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA, April 2011

“Passages,” video installation at INSCAPE, Seattle, October 2010

“A Tribute to Merce Cunningham,” Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, September 2010

“Fifteen Years of the Neddy Fellowship,” Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA, August 2010

“Shizaburo Takeda Biennial,” Oaxaca, Mexico, June 2010

“Oaxaca Invitational,” IAGO, Oaxaca, Mexico, November, 2008

“Dualities,” Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, WA , November 2008

“New Pop Prints Invitational,” Lux Gallery, Lincoln, NE, October 2008

“International Print Exhibition,” Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, September, 2008

“Still Pulling: Printmaking in the Digital Age,” Elaine Jacob Gallery, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, March, 2008

“Contemporary Printmaking at the Crossroads,” Segal Gallery, Montclair, NJ, Sept. 2007

“New Prints 2007/Winter,” International Print Center New York, January-February 2007

“Neddy Artist Fellowship Exhibition,” Tacoma Art Museum, May – August, 2006

“A Common Language: Print Art from Seattle at Shenzhen University,” Shenzhen, China, December, 2005

Education : MFA University of Washington

Affiliations: Founder, Past President and current board member, Seattle Print Arts

Selected Public Collections

Art in Embassies, Bern, Switzerland
King County 4 Culture Portable Works
Kohler Library Book Arts Collection, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey
Tacoma Art Museum
City of Seattle, Portable Works Collection
State of Washington, Percent for Art Public Collections
King County, Percent for Art, Airport Project
IBM Corporation, Chicago
Harborview Medical Center
The Boeing Company
City of Everett, WA, Public Art Collection
Safeco Corporation

Grants & Awards & Commissions

E4C Media Screens, 4Culture, 2017-2018
4Culture Artists Projects Grant, 2016
E4C Media Exhibition, 4Culture, Seattle, 2016
Commission for three site specific animations for the Renaissance Group, Seattle, 2014
E4C Media Exhibition, 4Culture, Seattle, 2011
4Culture, Individual Artists Award, 2009
Neddy Artist Fellowship Award, Behnke Foundation, 2006
City Artists 2004, City of Seattle, Grant for production of new large scale work
Washington State Arts Commission, Professional Development Grant, 2002
Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA. 2002 Fellowship in Digital and Traditional Print
City of Seattle, "Printworks" Commission, 2000

Publications and Presentations

"In Context," co-curator and artist, satellite exhibition for Seattle Art Fair, August 2016
"Women and Print," Scripps College, Claremont, CA, September 2014
"Take Three Annual": Short Films by Northwest Artists, co-curator and organizer, NW Film Forum, Seattle, 2013 -2016
The Best of the Northwest, Selected Works from the Tacoma Art Museum, by Margaret Bullock and Rock Hushka, 2013
"Ontologies", Presentation and Exhibition, Biennial Print Art Festival, Athens, Greece, October, 2012
Contemporary Drawing book by Margaret Davidson, 2011
"Events," Artist Collaborator with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Joyce Theater, New York, December, 2004
"An Exploration of Aesthetics in the Digital Age," Southern Graphics Conference, Boston, MA, April 2003

"Medium Crossings: Working Across Boundaries," Southern Graphics Conference, Austin, TX,
March 2001