

Sabbatical Report
Fall 2007
Amy Schmierbach
Associate Professor
Department of Art and Design

During my Fall 2007 sabbatical, my goal was to create a body of two-dimensional drawings that would reflect the content of my current three-dimensional work. This time proved to be fruitful with the quantity of work produced but also gave me time to reflect, develop new concepts and become reacquainted with the printmaking process. I was revitalized artistically as well as academically.

My first opportunity was the invitation to be in a portfolio exchange that would coincide with the Frontiers in Printmaking Conference and Exhibition at Illinois State University. For this exchange 30 artists create an edition of 30 prints that are were dispersed among us. For this project I created a collage of silk screened prints. In October I attended this conference and made connections for future exhibition opportunities and print exchanges. My print and sculptures were included in exhibitions affiliated with the conference. Being around prints and printmakers reenergized by love of printmaking.

This print inspired a series of 15 silk screen collages. These collages consisted of cut up silk screen and flocked prints that focused on color, shape and texture while exploring the theme of landscape. These collages stimulated the a large part of my sabbatical which focused on creating 20 black and white drawings that explore layers of silk screen, flocking, charcoal and graphite. Through these layers landscapes and skyscapes emerged from the paper.

Halfway through my sabbatical I purchased a printmaking press and set up a printmaking studio in my home. For the remainder of my research I focused on creating intaglio and monoprints. I am still working on these prints and will continue to explore this medium until my Sabbatical Exhibit scheduled for the Fall of 2008 in the Moss Thorn Gallery at FHSU.

During this research time I continued to exhibit my work. I have had two solo exhibitions at Charleston Heights Gallery in Las Vegas, NV and Dodge City community College, one 3-persons exhibit at the Lincoln Center in Fort Collins, Co, 3 group exhibits in Bloomington, IL, one lecture and one art workshop in Las Vegas, NV. Also, I have applied for several grants and exhibition proposals.

I am very thankful for this time because it allowed me time to focus on my art as well as the importance of this work in my teaching. I have reorganized the curriculum and developed new projects for my drawing classes. These courses have a new focus on contemporary drawing and research components.