2013-2014 SAIF GRANT

FINAL REPORT

COMBINING TRADITIONAL PAINTING AND DIGITAL MEDIA

(Creative Endeavor)

Richard Moninski, MFA
Distinguished Lecturer
Department of Performing and Visual Arts
University of Wisconsin-Platteville

Submitted September 1, 2014
Abstract

My grant was awarded to fund the creation of a body of work that had two main components. I would make a group of paintings on digitally printed fabrics, some of which I would design myself, and also make a group of smaller works on paper that combined traditional drawing and painting media with digital imagery.

The project had a research phase, a design phase and an execution phase. I was able to hire a student assistant, Ciera Adams, who helped me research images from 17th century New England that related to imagery I’ve used previously. The images included artifacts like coins and historic textiles, as well as period portraits and maps. During the design phase, my assistant and I created the repeating patterns for the printed fabric and also made stencils that would be used in conjunction with the painted images. The bulk of the funding period was devoted to the final execution phase, where I made the paintings and drawings.

Project Outcome

Though the funding period of the grant has ended, my project is ongoing and I anticipate it will continue for another six months. At this point I have created ten works on paper with eight more currently in progress and nearing completion. I have also completed four of the larger paintings with two others in progress and four more planned. While my original timetable for completion seemed entirely adequate to the task of finishing this volume of work, I had not anticipated at the time of the proposal submission that I would be leading a short-term study abroad course in Rome during the last Winterim term. The preparation of the course materials and the actual teaching of the course substantially cut into time I had budgeted for the studio. Nevertheless, I am pleased with the quality of the results to date, and I am working steadily toward the completion of the project.

Conclusion

The awarding of this SAIF grant has been crucial in allowing me to further my research and take my painting into hitherto unexplored areas. The two textile patterns I designed with the help of my student assistant have been successfully printed and they have added a dimension to my work that I intend to exploit in further paintings. The smaller works on paper that mix conventional and digital imagery have caused me to think in more directed ways about incorporating digital media via the iPad into the existing drawing curriculum in the art program at UW-Platteville, which has led to present discussions with my department chairman regarding the procurement of iPads for the implementation of digital drawing projects for the Drawing II course.
It is my intention to exhibit works funded by the grant at the next faculty exhibition at the Nohr Gallery here on campus, as well as at other exhibition venues regionally and nationally. In fact, I am already scheduled to show two of the recently finished paintings and three of the small works on paper in a group exhibition at Parkland College in Champaign, IL at the end of this month, and am in the process of seeking out additional exhibition opportunities.