Artist's Statement

These are some things I have made to help satisfy my interest in stories and storytelling. The stories I find most intriguing are those that have been un-remembered, either by choice or accident, and have fallen out of our collective consciousness. My intention is to evoke a narrative through the objects and images, and to create a compelling image that promotes inquiry.

The work presented in this exhibition represents the thread this progression has followed. I began painting on old maps because I liked their graphic qualities, but soon the stories and events associated with the places began to inform my decisions and they formed a stronger context for the images I created. Eventually, the stories took precedence over the maps and images weren't enough to convey the physicality I was hoping to achieve. Objects and images started working in unison to relate the story.

This past spring, I had an opportunity to take a sculpture course sponsored by the Formica Corporation. When I think of Formica, what comes to mind is the 1950s sense of optimism and progress—typified in the iconic Boomerang pattern often seen on diner tables from that era. I enjoy making things, and this fit right into the direction I was pursuing in my work, of creating modern cabinets of curiosity. And what could be more modern than Formica?

About the Artist

John Wolfer is Professor of Art and Department Chairperson at University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College. He teaches courses in Design and Fine Arts. He earned an MFA in Painting from Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina, and a BA in Painting from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has exhibited widely in both regional and national venues. His approach to art includes a wide range of media, encompassing collage, drawing, installation, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. His subject matter is just as diverse, and has included: animals, figures, landscapes, meat, and teddy bears. Recent work includes images of figures (both human and animal) with tools and equipment set in a series of academic maps.

Contact the Artist

A more extensive collection of John Wolfer’s artworks may be found on his website at johnwolfer.com. If you would like to know more about any of his work, you may contact him directly at jfwolfer@yahoo.com.

Pieces Included in Exhibition

Sculptures
- Shed, wood, formica, acrylic and antler (2015)
- Happy Trail, wood, formica, foam and acrylic (2015)
- The Czar’s Challenge, wood, formica, metal, acrylic and paper (2015)
- Delilah, wood, formica, metal, acrylic and mixed media (2015)
- Canad Clô: wood, formica, acrylic, bone and mixed media (2015)

2D Works
- The Miller’s Daughter, mixed media, 14” x 22” (2015)
- Bound to Daim: mixed media, 14” x 22” (2015)
- Gabi di Los Magnoli, mixed media, 10” x 14” (2015)
- Good for a Laugh, mixed media, 9” x 9” (2015)
- The Memoirs of Robert-Houdin, mixed media, 8” x 8” (2014)
- Restoration: mixed media, 10” x 12” (2015)
- Fidelity, mixed media, 6” x 10” (2015)
- Rest, mixed media, 9” x 11” (2015)
- Keeper, mixed media, 2” x 1” (2015)
- Cold Trail, mixed media, 12” x 14” (2015)
- 12 Days of Christmas, mixed media, 15” x 13” (2015)
- Vespertina, mixed media, 12” x 14” (2016)
- Metamorphosis, mixed media, 15” x 15” (2012)
- Assemblage, mixed media, 14” x 20” (2015)
- Toth, mixed media, 14.5” x 19” (2013)
- Public, mixed media, 10” x 10” (2012)
- A Slice of Love, mixed media, 5” x 7” (2013)
- Cot: mixed media, 10” x 14” (2014)
- On Sale: You’re, mixed media, 9” x 16” (2015)
- H/2, mixed media, 9” x 20” (2015)
- Stick: mixed media, 10” x 15” (2015)

Restoration

- Keeper, mixed media, 9” x 17” (2013)
- Lost Traits, mixed media, 12” x 10” (2013)
- Lá an Dreoilín, mixed media, 14” x 10” (2012)
- Eostur-monath, mixed media, 10” x 14” (2012)
- Mesikämmen, mixed media, 10.5” x 14.5” (2012)
- Apparatu, mixed media, 14” x 20” (2015)
- Ta-weret, mixed media, 14.5” x 10” (2015)
- Labor of Love, mixed media, 8” x 10” (2013)
- Fidelity, mixed media, 9” x 15” (2013)
- Double-Trouble, mixed media, 9.5” x 19” (2011)
- Hitch, mixed media, 9.5” x 20” (2011)
- Survey, mixed media, 10” x 15” (2011)

Keeper Restoration
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