4-1-2010

Anomie

Niles Clyde Lang

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.xula.edu/xulanexus

Recommended Citation

Available at: https://digitalcommons.xula.edu/xulanexus/vol7/iss2/2

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by XULA Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in XULAnexUS by an authorized editor of XULA Digital Commons. For more information, please contact ksiddell@xula.edu.
Anomie

Niles Clyde Lang, Art

Faculty Mentor: Mr. Ron Bechet, Art

Work Titles
Contemplation (Drypoint Print on Paper), 2009 8x10in
Building 44 (Drypoint Print on Paper), 2009 8x10in

Artist’s Statement
When reflecting on college years, people often recall only the good times, the events that make good stories: the parties, spring break and the dorm life, never looking back at where they got lost, where there was a bump in the road. But sometimes the most fun part of the trip is the journey itself. Henry David Thoreau once said, “Not until we are lost do we begin to understand ourselves” (“Ourselves”). My struggle to figure out who I am and who I want to be drives my work. My self-discovery is not about what I have found, who I am, or who I will be, but why I am that way and how I got there. My goal is to understand myself, with my works being a window to my own consciousness.

Plexiglas has become one of my favorite forms to carve into; it is brittle yet soft. It can shatter and crack which produces the ridged, angular forms that often appear in my work and, most importantly, it is translucent. This translucent quality parallels my work’s ability to cause me to reflect on my thoughts and emotions without being self-aware.

My most recent pieces confront issues of drinking, a popular college pastime. Drinking may be a fun activity but it also causes a sense of self-reflection. The continuous contour line represents the highs and lows of the drug. The gray tones represent that gray area that I almost never discuss, as well as the confusion, anger and anomie that college entails and being young can cause.

Context Statement
Drypoint printing is a type of intaglio printing in which the drawings are carved directly into the print matrix, traditionally copper but more recently on steel or various plastic (Grabowski and Fick 103). Invented in the 15th century by the Housebook Masters, it involves using a scraper and burnisher to carve or draw directly on the plate, and using the matrix to create a relief, usually on paper (Staff and Sacilotto 91).

According to the Mental Health Glossary, anomie is “apathy, alienation, and personal distress resulting from the loss of goals previously valued.” This concept was coined by sociologist Emile Durkheim when describing the feeling that those in the 1800s felt due to the complications of modern life, technology and the change in the human experience.
Contemplation (Drypoint Print on Paper), 2009 8x10in
Building 44 (Drypoint Print on Paper), 2009 8x10in
Works Cited


Acknowledgements
I would like to thank the Xavier University of Louisiana Art Department, who helped push my development, both visual and personal; especially Ron Bechet, Augustus Jenkins and Michelle Nkoyo Lavigne. The Xavier Art Department provides a constant vehicle to reflect on both my art and personal actions.