

## **Hybrid Symmetry and Abstract Morphology**

### **I. Summary of Purpose, Goals & Outcomes**

The purpose of this sabbatical leave was to devote myself to my digital/artistic and web research. My previous works ("Diagram 51" and "Hybrid Morphology, exhibit 1," exhibited at Napa Art Gallery, Camarillo, CA, and "Woman as Insect—La Femme Insecte" and "La Rêve et la Métamorphose" exhibited at Val du Grace Gallery, Paris) have included the creation of work that is the beginning of a series of work that has become the digital art component of my research. My hybrid artwork is a combination of digital and fine art processes that leads to the creation of flat, 2D digital artwork that I print and show in gallery and web exhibitions.

For the past 3 years, my "hybrid artwork" studies have involved the creation of morphological imagery that explores the connections and similarities between biomorphic, botanical and organic shapes, as well as patterns and symbols. I am inspired by their powerful imagery. I am fascinated with the visual imagery of insects, mathematical and molecular formulas, and botanical and biological morphology. I am drawn, literally, to the strange beauty of these object's patterns and shapes. I process and translate this imagery using the computer to produce my artwork.

During my sabbatical I created 8 new digital artworks. I began my artistic process with a detailed research process, which begins with the gathering of fine art and photographic imagery. I imported and scanned this imagery into the computer and then began a process of combining it with computer-generated and fine art imagery which will be further digitally manipulated abstracted and constructed using computer graphics software. For each digital artwork, it took a week minimum and many times more, to fully research, design and execute one piece.

Interest in this subject matter began for me by chance when I first attended a "writing retreat" sponsored by the CI Office of Faculty Development. At the end of a hectic semester, I arrived tired and lacking inspiration. I listened carefully to my colleagues from varied disciplines speak about the research projects they were going to be working on. Soon, I began picking up on words and ideas, some foreign to me, that conjured imagery and inspiration in my mind. I took notes and sketched ideas. My handwritten notes from my research included "spine of the river," "mathematical formula for proving the existence of God," "*Arterial*-Venous Malformations" and "Alchemy as protoscience." Soon I was making literal and visual connections that realized themselves as original computer-generated art. Imagery of a spine found itself in one piece. I asked my Math colleague to use a graphics tablet to write out the formula that "proves the existence of God." That "typography" then morphed its way into the faint negative space of the Twin Towers combined with the imagery of a human spine. The next year at the same retreat, a twisted x-ray of arterial veins, mathematical symbols and various insects and the symmetrical makeup of these beings had me creating forced symmetrical imagery. Thanks to the dedicated time

these 3-day writing retreats have afforded me to concentrate and create away from distractions. I had begun a line of research and work that I greatly want to continue, and my semester-long sabbatical allowed me to do this.

In sum, my sabbatical leave was very productive and provided me with an experience not possible during my normal workload assignment due to constraints in time, allowing me to concentrate and produce significant. The work and research created have fed significantly my teaching of a new course: Art/Biology 389 – The Art of Science and the Science of Art that I am co-teaching with Biology Professor Erich Fleming. Due to the sabbatical I was also able to continue to pursue and fully complete digital exploring the relationships between art, science and morphology in an experimental artistic framework and will allowed me the time to create 8 more artworks that I have showcased at the Broome Library Art Gallery in the Fall of 2013 and will showcase in Paris, France at the Val du Grace Gallery at the Paris American Academy in May 2014.

During my leave I acquired new proficiency required to maintain currency in my field and generated artwork for teaching, display on websites and showing in physical galleries.