

Otis College of Art and Design

Faculty Development Grantee Report

Grantee's Name: **Tracy Colby**

Date: **May 3 2007**

Department: **Digital Media**

Brief description of your funded project including activities performed.

I created a series 5 of large-scale paintings based on geologic structures.

What were some of the insights, accomplishments, and/or benefits you derived from the project?

The paintings were created in Adobe Photoshop. But unlike earlier series, the grant allowed me to print in very large scale (greater than 1m x 1m). The benefits to me are quite clear: The change in scale transforms the experience of the work, from intimate personal pieces to "grand" environments. In fact, I have begun to consider an additional life for these pieces as wall coverings that create reference to the natural world. I am also considering taking some of the images, and putting them into repeat for textiles, or referencing them for woven designs.

Two of the pieces quite clearly speak to me of motion. I plan to use them, or elements from them in animations.

The grant has given me a new view of my work and insights into further development. It has helped me to understand that, happily, I still have an essential "textile" sensibility while now working in motion.

What challenges did you experience during the project? What were some of the lessons you learned?

The challenges in the project snuck up on me. I chose to use Academic Computing's print service. I expected it to be easy. It wasn't. For my initial prints, the Epson printer's print heads were clogged, and I wasted a significant amount of paper on spoiled prints. The quality was awful. I expressed my dismay to Hal Tekle who oversees the print lab, and was pleased to find out that he or the most competent (my opinion) tech would oversee the printing. They did, and the final prints look great.

Lessons I learned? Perseverance pays off. The devil IS in the details. Keep on Truckin'.

Dissemination- how do you propose to disseminate your project on the faculty development website? (In addition to posting your grantee report, photos, additional narrative, interviews, lectures, publications, etc.)?

In addition to submitting the images, and writing the report, I will be making two of the pieces into animations and submitting them to competitions. I am sending the images to the Galerie Liebau in Germany and am also seeking other galleries I think appropriate for the work. If I can find other venues, I'll display there too.

What suggestions, comments or improvements do you have for the Faculty Development Committee?

Thanks to the faculty development committee. I greatly appreciate the support.

I'm a bit concerned, however, over what I perceive to be the desire on the part of some individuals to make the grants available only for improvement of teaching.

I strongly feel that grants to explore and advance professional artistic research directly benefit Otis by maintaining the vibrant and forward environment that draws students to Otis.

Please provide any materials that can be posted online (preferably on a disc) and attach any additional material/pages if necessary