Max Rebel is no stranger to moving around. After relocating from Germany to Georgia in 1998, Rebel eventually landed at Georgia Southern University (GSU). In 2010, Rebel received his Bachelor of Fine Art in graphic design from GSU and enrolled into the Master of Fine Art (MFA) program to study graphic design. Three semesters after his acceptance, Rebel realized that graphic design no longer held his interest. “A lot of graphic design work is client based. I wanted to do something different and develop my own content, ideas, and techniques and not just follow instructions,” Rebel said.

Rebel applied and was accepted into the MFA program for 2-Dimensional studio art. During his early semesters in the program, Rebel experimented with a wide range of 2-dimensional techniques until he arrived at his mixed media focus.

His current exhibition, *Fragmented*, was inspired by a journey in the community where he started to notice that certain objects stood out to him. “During my explorations, I came across these two metal wooden door panels that were hanging in a back alley and although they were not traditionally considered art, I looked at them as these beautiful art forms on the wall that were constructed out of burnt wood and used metal that I never considered mixed media before,” said Rebel.

To inform the artwork in *Fragmented*, Rebel would explore various rural and urban communities in search of neglected back alleys and collapsed warehouses. Rebel’s goal was to find abandoned pieces of industrial material and manipulate the items into artwork. It was important to Rebel that each material maintains many of the same characteristics they possessed when he found them. In addition to reflecting on the impact of time and how natural phenomena changes everyday objects, Rebel also wants to highlight that humans are effected everyday as their environment alters.

Rebel now embraces change and is thankful he found his niche with mixed media. “The department always supported me through my many changes and they allowed me to just become myself,” said Rebel. The artist suggested that people should try new things and to escape their comfort zone. “If you’re not making mistakes than you’re not learning,” Rebel advised.

*Fragmented* will be displayed in the Contemporary Gallery, which is located within the Center for Art and Theatre. The exhibition will run from March 17-28th with a reception being held on Friday, March 28th.
Suarez Looks at the Bigger Picture

March 17, 2014

By: Chinyere Ikedionwu

After working with pastels for many years, Suarez has found a new passion with oil paintings. With her upcoming exhibition, Reflections on Our Time, Suarez explores how light and color is distorted through commercially produced plastic objects. By doing so, she provides a new lens in which to view objects from.

Not only does Suarez aspire to captivate viewers with her artwork, she also wants to start a conversation about sustainability. To her, it is the small changes that people can make that will positively effect our environment. "My goal is to draw the viewer into my art so they question what they see, encouraging them to think of how they interact with the natural world and the environmental footprint they leave behind," Suarez said. "Thus creating an awareness of even how small changes can create big effects."

A native of South Florida, Suarez’s background with nature and water is reflected in each painting she creates. By utilizing an array of technical skills, as well as the use of luscious and complex colors, Suarez captivates viewers with her dynamic paintings. "My pieces are fairly contemporary, vibrant, organic, colorful, and they show pattern, movement and spatial play," says Suarez.

After receiving her Bachelors of Fine Art from the University of Florida and a degree in Art Education from Kennesaw State University, Suarez taught both elementary and high school art. Suarez now spends the bulk of her days working in her studio on campus, as well as teaching GSU courses as a graduate teaching assistant. She loves to teach and plans to continue teaching as a professor after completing her MFA program.

As her time winds down at Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art, Suarez remembers all the great times she’s had with her classmates, faculty, and staff. "I love the camaraderie we share in the art department. The faculty is very giving with the knowledge they have accumulated. The interaction we have in this department simply can not be replaced," said Suarez.

Reflections on our Times will be displayed in the Center for Art and Theatre from March 17-28th. To learn more about Janet Suarez, check out her blog for more information (http://janetsuarez.wordpress.com).

Posted in --, Gallery Programming

Tags: Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art, Janet Suarez, Master of Fine Arts Candidate Exhibition