

Visual Art SHOWCASE

The work created by the three artists featured here functions on more than one level – as good art generally does. There are the esthetic issues and those of skill and talent, but there are also the specific (and related) ways that the work addresses the world around us. These artists create imagery consistently based on biological/geological forms, but there is also an aspect of the precarious or unwanted involved. In each case, the work speaks through the abstract language of the artistic medium and also in a way that embraces language-based ideas relevant to important issues in current society.

Mark Keffer
KSU Class of '88



S U S A N D A N K O



Overflow acrylic on canvas, 46 x 60", 2017

The paintings of **Susan Danko** depict highly evocative realms of natural forms, by way of beautiful painterly means. There is an inventive sense of discovery displayed in the creation of her work that results in scenes combining the naturalistic and the otherworldly; she expands and heightens what we already know from direct experience. There is a genuine concern for environmental issues that serves as an impetus for this work, but not in a way that becomes didactic or that compromises artistic integrity. This seems to be an effective approach, one in which different meanings resonate and reveal themselves in a layered fashion. From toxic algae blooms to flooding due to extreme weather events to issues regarding damaged habitats, Danko's concerns are inextricable from a sense of beauty, mystery, and hope.



Secondary Succession acrylic on canvas, 70 x 96", 2013



Wood Interior acrylic on canvas, 46 x 60", 2018, Collection of Stark State College-Akron Workforce Center

A number of three dimensional works serve as an extension of her painting; she constructs sculptural installations from materials such as cut, painted paper and cellophane, vinyl, and plastic. This work further pushes the line between figuration and abstraction as the depictions exist in a physical depth. The concerns and imagery are related to the paintings, but create a different kind of space in which to immerse the viewer. A whimsical quality in this work intelligently balances the weight and urgency of Danko's intentions. She states:

As a contemporary landscape painter, experiencing the natural environment is an integral part of my creative process. ...The paintings that I create are informed by my thoughts and

responses to the new state of our contemporary natural environment. They are constructed from both memory and observation, and arise from real and imagined environmental scenarios. With them, I examine the power and fragility of nature caught in a state of flux between destruction and renewal. In creating these paintings, I hope to raise awareness, and inspire a greater respect for the environment that we all share.

Susan Danko received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Cleveland Institute of Art. She has shown her work extensively throughout the region and nationally, including museum exhibitions at the Attleboro Art Museum, MA; Rockford Art Museum, IL; Southern Ohio Museum, Portsmouth; Huntington Museum of Art, WV; Museum of Contemporary Art,

Cleveland; Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown; and gallery exhibitions at Cheryl Hazan Gallery, NYC; SPACES, Cleveland; Bonfoey Gallery, Cleveland; Angela Meleca Gallery, Columbus; Harris Stanton Gallery, Akron; among numerous others. Her work is in many collections including the Cleveland Clinic Foundation; BF Goodrich Corporation, Charlotte, NC; Springfield Medical Center, Springfield, MO; Metro General, Cleveland; Summa Foundation, Akron; and the Ohio Arts Council. Danko is the recipient of the Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award and the Fine Arts Work Center/OAC collaborative residency in Provincetown, MA. She is represented by Bonfoey Gallery, Cleveland.

www.susandanko.com