

2024-05-21 Artist's Statement

Personal Background

Until I was sent to boarding school at the age of 12. I frequently created drawings such as maps of Robinson Crusoe's island, side views of battleships, tanks and bombers, castles and fortresses, and - a crowd pleaser - side view of JEEPs outfitted to carry everything needed for a picnic.

I often wonder how my skills might have developed had I been given drawing lessons. Ultimately I became an architect and then a software developer in the process became a fast and skilled technical draftsman both in 2D and 3D. I have always regretted never developing my drawing skills for sketching. I have taken life drawing classes, tried cartooning and sketching landscapes. But I never happily carried a sketchbook and drew a sketch of a building or a cityscape. I have always been envious of those who could. I have always been a technical draftsman, not an artist.

Drawing in a sketchbook is not easy when you have only one hand

The time it takes to create a good drawing is a challenge. Unless you are thoroughly experienced it takes much time and many sketches to create a good sketch.

When you see a nice sketch it incorporates the hundreds of hours it took to develop the skill to create the sketch. It is not just the time it took to create that one sketch.

Medium and Techniques

The initial sketches were done on the backs of memos sent out by the office - mostly using felt tip pens and annotated with a 2B pencil.

Later works were done using a variety of computer software, drawn with a stylus on a computer screen, and printed on a thick paper obtained from the art room.

Generally a drawing was started around 11:45 and finished by around noon - in time for lunch. Occasionally a drawing took much longer as I evolved a new technique or tried a new medium.

I started the exercise started in August 2020 and continued until 2022. After that I created drawings using Artificial Intelligence and displaying these on a computer monitor. My first drawing was the Coco Channel exercise.

After that my creative skills have been focussed on the Heritage Happenings.

Themes

Birthdays

On birthdays, I often searched out the resident and asked what drawing they would like to see. In a number of instances, I repeatedly drew the item a number of times until there were the number of items corresponding to the age of the resident. For example, the drawing for Sheila shows eighty-eight martini glasses.

Holidays

On a number of holidays, I drew holiday settings

Artists Coloring Books

The Louise Bourgeois and Giacometti drawings are examples.

People wearing Sombreros

Sometimes I was lazy and I ripped off the idea from the book "CéKoiCa?! - C'est un Mexicain qui..." by Martin Berthommier.

Single Line drawings

I have always been fascinated by the single line drawings of Picasso. I have tried to emulate this style in a number of drawings.

Personal Connection ~ Why did I stop?

I created them so as to provide residents passing through the corridor with something to smile at during the long lonely pandemic isolation. All of these drawings took effort on my part. They were not part of an activity that comes naturally to me. In other words, it was yet another attempt to see if I could develop my drawing skills in ways that would gratify me.

The Future

My dream is to find collaborators who would work together to generate images for display and enjoyment on Internet. My hero, Picasso, invented new ways of using your eyes. I believe his efforts could be updated, extrapolated and extended into models for the future of art. I would like to be part of that future.