

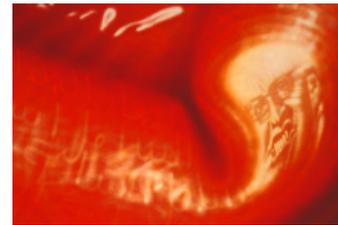
The Herald

newbritainherald.com

10/23/2007

Artists make political statements at CCSU

By: FRAN MORALES , Herald staff



Peter Drake, detail, M/oral Pathology VIII WMD2

NEW BRITAIN - New York artists Peter Drake and Kim Keverer unveiled their two-person exhibition at the opening of their shared gallery on Thursday at Central Connecticut State University's Maloney Hall. The two Manhattan artists broke time away before their opening to speak to a group of students during an artist lecture earlier that day.

While Drake cries an antiwar message, Keverer conveys the opposite - depicting a rather peaceful solitude in a fictional landscape with no inhabitants.

Drake amplifies images into a larger composition to convey his anti-war message. The 50-year-old New York native depicts through graphic and oversized images, of human's oral pathology and miniature antique soldiers, as his anti-war statement.

Drake uses "traumatic diseases of the mouth and linking them to the lies of the Bush administration."

"I saw lying as the most profound form of oral pathology," said Drake who used the visual metaphor of pathological lying relating it as a form of a body disease.

Drake also paints "anamorphic images," of members in the President George W. Bush administration's cabinet which include - Bush himself, Vice President Dick Cheney, former Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of the State Condoleezza Rice.

Another "oral pathology piece," portrays Cheney's facade in a cold sore on the lip with text written on the lip that describes weapons of mass destruction in English and Arabic.

Some students were confused by the Arabic representation. Drake said it wasn't to offend the culture but to represent them as victims.

"In my mind both cultures have been disastrously affected by the war," explains Drake.

Unlike Drake's work which conveys an in-your-face political statement, Keverer goes back to the basics of Romanticism in his photography.

But unlike typical dreamy landscapes, Keverer builds his fictional landmarks and submerges them in a large aquarium in his New York studio, contributing to the dreamy effect.

Keverer builds the environments in a large aquarium in his Manhattan studio.

He manipulates the effects by adding colored lights and fog - he achieves the illusion through watercolors to create weather and mysterious atmosphere.

He then photographs the staged mystical yet Romantic landscapes.

Keverer's Web site describes his work as a primordial past or postapocalyptic future.

"It's about the beauty of the natural world and loss of space," said Keverer, who often associates and uses dreams to find his scenery. "My mind runs on a dream state."

The result is a fictitious environment that is an optical illusion - a cross between fantasy and reality, Keverer explains.

"There's a twist at looking at [Keverer's painting] that things are not what they seem," said Mark Strathy, the university's curator, who explained the artists' images to the group of students during the artist lecture Thursday.

"That's part of what contemporary irony in art is about. You fool the eye. In some ways his photographs are really funny ... creating the irony."

The two-person exhibition will be on display through Nov. 17 at the university's Maloney Hall between Wells Street and Ella Grasso Boulevard