

Sabbatical Leave Report

A. Applicant

Name: Stephanie Sanchez

Department: Art

Type of Leave: Independent Study

Leave Dates: Jan 2018-June 2018

B. Purpose of Leave

Stephanie Sanchez produced a body of creative original work related to her ongoing practice of painting California Landscape and Still life. She traveled for two months, primarily in southern California to paint plein air, in both desert and urban environments. Stephanie Sanchez curated an exhibit of 6 artists from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz, all working with similar subject matter. The Exhibition of this group curated by Stephanie Sanchez and her personal work is scheduled for a February 2019 exhibition at the Robert Agrella Gallery. Stephanie Sanchez produced a power point lecture including works of historical significance which relate to the practice of contemporary landscape painting and is available to the art department and students.

C. Objectives

1. Stephanie Sanchez curated an Art Exhibit: "Meanderings" which includes paintings by 7 contemporary artists working in landscape and still life which will be included in the sabbatical show.
2. Stephanie Sanchez created a body of creative original paintings of California landscape, comprised of 15 paintings and 10 drawings.
3. Stephanie Sanchez created, updated and refreshed imagery for SRJC painting, drawing and foundation students including a power point presentation.

D. Narrative

During January through April Stephanie Sanchez did not travel far, she remained for the most part in the studio and in the field creating sketches and paintings of the local wet lands close to home, in Sonoma County, around Skaggs Island and the straits near Novato, all intimately connected by delta waters. This resulted in a group of 5 paintings, the largest in the exhibition, made possible by field studies and time spent in the studio. During that time 2 still life were also produced. In April-June, she traveled to southern California to re-examine themes of landscape (which resonate with an earlier body of work) such as development of Ballona Creek, the last remaining wetland in Los Angeles. The results are 3 paintings of concrete river banks along the Ballona Creek beside the wetland preserve. Several short trips taken to the Antelope Valley, 41 miles north east in the desert, resulted in 3 oil studies of the fantastic rock formations known in Hollywood as Vasquez Rocks where many westerns from the 40's and 50's were shot. She traveled to Florida in early January to attend an exhibition which included her paintings at the Key West Historical Society, "Truman Annex Artists."

While there she painted 5 small oil and acrylic plein air sketches of the devastated wetland areas hit by a hurricane, on Summerland Key. The works reflects her interest in the wetland areas of coastal California, so while this group of paintings are a departure from the designated sabbatical leave document specifying California landscape, this work will complement the California landscapes directly relating to the themes already established. In May Stephanie Sanchez visited studios of the artists whose work will be displayed along with her own in "Meanderings." This involved visiting the studio and selecting two paintings each from California artists in northern and southern California. During her stay in Los Angeles in May and June she was able to visit the Huntington Museum in Pasadena, the San Diego Museum, and refresh understanding of American landscape painting. These pictures are included in the PowerPoint presentation that she will deliver in February 2019.

E. Evaluation Summary

1. How did this sabbatical leave enhance my work performance at the college?
Enriched imagery in the form of photographs and paintings done during the sabbatical leave is available to art faculty and students. This will excite and stimulate dialogue about art at the college and in the community.

2. How did this sabbatical leave benefit students in my discipline? Art students are exposed to significant original works of art, both drawing and painting from contemporary artists working in landscape. Foundation art students will have the opportunity to see original works of art demonstrating principles of design, color theory, composition, based on empirical observation, as practiced in all art studio classes. Developing a student's inherent creative potential through exposure to works of art is fundamental to art education.

3. How did this sabbatical leave benefit my department? By offering new refreshed imagery, and sharing the creative experience, the exhibit will provide opportunity for critique, assignments based on fundamental principles of design, color, and composition.

4 How does proposed project address the SRJC Strategic Plan and department's educational plan? The exhibition of original works of art in the Agrella Gallery enriches the art program, as it offers an opportunity for students to engage in serious critical study of paintings of fine contemporary landscape artists, all of whom demonstrate principles of design, color theory, composition, and drawing taught in Art 3, Art 5, Art 7A and 14 ABC. Students are offered the opportunity to be conversant with contemporary original art, and be engaged in a critical dialogue within the museum in the presence of original works of art: this is a goal of the educational plan, developing critical thinking skills, made possible by an art museum environment. Building community happens when students look at art together in an environment which allows for adequate viewing and display of art. The Exhibition Design Class will install the show, teaching professionalism in the area of installation.

F Abstract for Board Report Summary

Stephanie Sanchez produced 15 paintings and 10 sketches drawing inspiration from the California landscape, primarily from observation, plein air. Ms. Sanchez organized an exhibition of her own paintings created during her sabbatical, and the work of 6 contemporary landscape painters opening in February at the Robert Agrella Gallery titled "Meanderings: California Landscape." Stephanie Sanchez prepared a gallery talk,

and images collected and produced during the sabbatical are available to faculty and students in the Art Department.