

Research Assignment 1 FIN-115

Tom Huck

Kohler City Revisited

- Part of a series made from 1995-1998, Two Weeks in August: 14 Rural Absurdities
- Series based on tall tales and legends from Tom Huck's hometown of Potosi, Missouri.
- In the caption, Tom talks about how this store in his hometown used to have second hand items like glasses, or even dentures, and the print is based off of a memory of seeing seniors try on the dentures and put them back in the pile. Some of his subject matter has a similar kind of dark humor, or sinister quality to it.
- My first impression was that the amount of detail in a print like this could feel a bit crowded or overwhelming, but something that seems common in his work is the ability to create an even amount of detail throughout so that it makes you want to see what's going on in every corner of the print.
- I find the linework is so strong and well-contrasted that it really reminds me of techniques that would transfer over well from people who like Drawing as a medium.
- Another quality about his carving, which is wood block, is that I feel he has really great separation of the different figures and areas throughout the print, using thicker and more defined lines to separate them.

Exhuming Moses

- The composition is very strong in this piece, and everything looks as though it would've had to be planned out down to multiple details in order to still have the background of the city, and the different trees incorporated with figures in them.
- What stands out to me is the intricacy in dealing with the details on objects; a tiny shell on the coffin, the glint of light he's created at the top brim of it, and around it. The story being told is with a sense of humor, and clearly embellished or has details and objects added in. He's also written in script, 'At Peace With God' when there's clearly an attempted grave robbery occurring, and the corpse is of a Texan local legend or politician, so there are details like the man up in the tree in the background holding a sort of propaganda flag. The composition and the concept of the image feel very tied into the sketching and planning that

would've been done.

The Transformation of Brandy Baghead: Part I

- The outer shape of the block looks carved out like a sawed edge
- The detail is rendered fairly even throughout on the figurative subject and I feel it helps lead the eyes across the entire print
- I see the rendering as another way to view detail; a lot of his work appears very heavy handed and high contrast, but a lot of the lines that make up the detail and value are fine lines

Leon Loughridge

Ascension/ Indian Summer

- Subject Matter:
- Techniques used & artist process: Perspective to create different planes of the sky, mountains and trees, buildings. With wood cutting, I put these side by side because I feel that he uses some contrasting and similar texture with his lines to create similar kinds of landscapes. Some of the lines are rounded and curved to show really lush looking trees on the hill, and on the right the composition feels much more linear and still with its movement. The one on the right does still have curved areas, like the areas of the mountains that are more bare, and the clouds, so I assume he used this to separate the two areas. He does something similar on the left as well if you look closely.
- I really like the qualities of Loughridge's use of colour as they seem to evoke a specific sunset or time of day, and other climates feel like a cold morning or a colder climate based on the colours that he uses. The imagery is very peaceful and it's surprising how much detail got into such small blocks.
- Colour application:
- Strengths / possibilities: I think his pieces show potential for how to separate different planes of a landscape through directional lines, and include fine detail on a small blocks.

<https://artcloud.com/art/indian-summer-1415-p-by-leon-loughridge>

<https://breckenridgegallery.com/art/ascension-by-leon-loughridge>

San Geronimo

- Subject Matter: San Geronimo (Jerome, New Mexico?)
- Techniques: I think some of his portrait compositions make the entire image feel a bit more alert, since we are used to seeing landscapes often in landscape form. The detail in his printing is really consistent throughout and maintains the

attention to the foreground, but I feel like uses a sort of false atmospheric perspective in this print with the wood grains that opens up the sky, and connects the sky and cloud layers to each other.

- The complimentary colours really invite a feeling that skyline is on fire from sunset or sunrise, I imagine really colourful clouds, and it pops nicely against the neutrals in the foreground.

Brooklyn Bridge a la Cristo

- Subject Matter: Urban Life, Brooklyn Bridge
- This piece makes me think of **urban life as its own sort of nature where things are constantly being built, rebuilt and patched up**. If you've ever been to New York they have all these kind of rafters and structures built over different walkways or down different streets, and it reminds me of that sort of, always in progress, constantly moving life of a city.
- I'm not sure if it was intentional either, but **the crookedness of some of the lines created by the white, orange and green structures and the sagging underneath parts of the bridge, the imperfect perspective kind of adds to that 'always under construction' or always a work in progress feeling of life**.
- Strengths / possibilities: I think this piece just shows that you can approach different types of landscapes or scenery with similar, and different techniques, or that there are different aspects of life to consider in a man-made and natural environment.

Process of 3 flower prints:

Steps:

For this printing process demo, he printed each plate/colour from left to right, and he discusses how he actually ends up with three colours because of the areas of red and green that mixed and created a darker red.

<https://youtu.be/q8Q9wZGPs5g>
<https://youtu.be/q8Q9wZGPs5g>

Process for multi block print:

Steps:

- Plein Air watercolour of the location to use as reference
- A colour study for the entire wood block, based upon the initial watercolour.
- He creates three blocks, with the drawing transferred onto each one.
- He prints them as separate layers, the first two colours were orange ochres as the intent was to have those colours really show up, the 8th colour run a rusty ochre on top, and a greyer ochre for the barns.
- The 9th colour run was a grayed cerulean blue.
- **Something to note is that he will print one layer, return to his block and then carve away (which he says is reduction printing,) and continue to do this as he prints different layers.**

It's a bit hard to tell from this image, but I'm assuming the purpose of the different blocks was to print different colours into different areas of the paper?

<https://youtu.be/16E-12b4nng>
<https://youtu.be/q8Q9wZGPs5g>

Nancy Haver

Schoodiic Point

- Subject Matter: Schoodiic Point
- The way that the image is carved, the strongest highlights and lighter parts of the drawing are carved in solid line. With thinner, more delicate lines she renders out details, while leaving the deepest shadows and darkest areas of the location in black. There is a sense of uplift through the treetops, details and boulders being rendered in white (carving,) and leaving the deepest, lowest parts of the imagery darker.
- *"Through my work I ask viewers to look closely and to appreciate the beauty of the many facets of a landscape. And in seeing, I believe they may be persuaded that these places deserve consideration and protection."*

Title ? (Chickens)

- This print explores detail in an interesting way. Most of the detail involved is in the feathering on the chickens, and through repetitive subjects and line, Nancy draws attention to the forward-most chicken. I'm assuming because of the gender of the hens or chickens, two of them have more rounded feathers, and so this creates interest and a sense of realism.
- The subjects are rich with texture and even though the background isn't fully rendered, there is still a sense of weight, gravity and lighting as you can see from the lower half of the chickens' bodies.

Title ? (Landscape)

- Finally, I chose this landscape because of the use of texture and line.
- I like that the speckles on the ground don't overwhelm the image, as each section or part of nature; the rocks, the mountains in the background, and the sky are rendered in similar but distinct styles of carving. The sky is wispy and the artist used line work that creates motion and the illusion of translucency in the clouds.
- The rocks are almost uniformly using straight lines, but there are other areas where the lines curve upwards and create interest.
- The rocks seem to gradually fade into the furthest point of the image, into the shadow of the mountain, becoming smaller and smaller and mimicking detail we might see in real life.
- Finally, the mountains in the back are set in a solid black and create a nice division between land and sky. The amount of land VS sky doesn't feel overwhelming, because there are some other solid darks in the groups of rocks that are closer up.