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ECOTONES

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ECOTONES

origin: combination of *eco* (ology) + *-tone*, from Greek *tonos* or *tension*.
a place where ecologies are in tension.

Chas Schroeder, *Ecotones*, March 23-27, 2015. East Gallery, Claremont Graduate University

Action: human/ animal marks. cave paintings, i am here. declarations of life. hedonistic activities. antler velvet rubbings. scent marks. hard lines and soft lines/ splashes and sprays/ thick and thin/ layered and single coats. active escapism. **Decoy:** lures and entices. pulls prey in. hunters/ biochemists/ military. **Game:** small game/ big game. migrating game. food. sustenance. self-reliance/ discovery. romanticized history of open plains/ harmony with nature. utopian dream. **Great Basin:** largest and most uninhabited desert in the United States. wilderness or wasteland? wilderness = parks/ wasteland = nuclear dump. the basin is both. void. **Geography:** disjunctive compositions. idiosyncrasies. voids, dead zones. overpopulation. trespass. **Migration:** primary reasons for animal migration: food and nesting. spreading of disease/ dispersal of plants and plankton. primary reason for human migration: food and nesting. no money= no food or nesting. must move. **Mining:** gold/ silver/ other precious metals. gravel. uranium-power/ weapons. pits for waste. minds. hydraulic fracturing. open pit mines. **Patterns:** dot dot dot world/ internet/ binary coding/ mass-production/ virtual reality/ fashion/ increasing speed in modern life. social function/ spiritual function in past humans. meditative doodles. aesthetic concerns. human instinct/ human nature at play. **Skeletal Figures:** animals and architectures. natural and artificial-both trying to survive/ to have space/ to have a presence. disappearing wetlands/ habitat/ environments/ peoples. calls to “the void”. **Tension:** disjunctive compositions. fractured narratives. acrylics and oils/ aerosols and enamels/ latexes and sharpies/ chalks and crayons. peaks and valleys. voids. formalism mates with abstraction. a wanting to act almost appropriately- a combination of decadent/ frantic/ desperate/ intuitive/ flamboyant/ fragmented/ beautiful/ fashionable/ compelling/ funny/ elegant/ (insert strong adjective) types. in-between zones. **Text:** typography/ pattern/ design. sounds of us/ sounds of nature. scrawl. graffiti. strike-ups mark boundaries. life/ death in humans. (like ecosystem boundaries = life/ death to animals) **Triangle:** pyramid power. preserve foods/ sharpen or maintain the sharpness of razor blades/ improve health/ energize humans/ function as a thought-form incubator/ trigger sexual urges. **Wilderness:** untamed. revered. immortalized. voids. what is wild? not adhering to convention. freewheeling/ open-minded/ adventurous/ dangerous/ brave/ a hunger/ immortalized/ revered/ untamed/ in danger of something/ dangerous. pure mammal instincts/ root behaviors. basic needs. rock-and-roll. desire for freedom.

***At the heart of the action of human mark making is a declaration of life. I am alive. I am here. So are you. Applying pigment to surfaces marks territory, tells stories, declares needs and desires, reveals dreams, begs interpretation, calls to nature, announces affiliations and reveals identity--all that and infinitely more.*

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