December 2020

Evolution of Island

Dominique Kongsli

DOMKO Fine Art

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarship.claremont.edu/steam

Part of the Art Practice Commons, Earth Sciences Commons, Marine Biology Commons, and the Painting Commons

Recommended Citation


Available at: https://scholarship.claremont.edu/steam/vol4/iss2/24

© December 2020 by the author(s). This open access article is distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommerical-NoDerivatives License.

STEAM is a bi-annual journal published by the Claremont Colleges Library | ISSN 2327-2074 | http://scholarship.claremont.edu/steam
Evolution of Island

Abstract
Evolution of Island emerged from the depths of an ocean of blue paint. My process involves observation of nature: I remember scuba diving in Thailand in the Andaman Sea and having a spiritual experience underwater while observing Christmas-tree worms pop in and out of the coral.

Keywords
Art, Art Making, Environment

Creative Commons License
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0 License.

This artwork is available in The STEAM Journal: https://scholarship.claremont.edu/steam/vol4/iss2/24
Evolution of Island

Dominique Kongsli
Evolution of Island

Dominique Kongsli
“Evolution of Island” 8’x6’ (96" x 72") mixed media on canvas, emerged from the depths of an ocean of blue paint. My process involves observation of nature: I remember scuba diving in Thailand in the Andaman Sea and having a spiritual experience underwater while observing Christmas-tree worms pop in and out of the coral.

My process of layering paint in this fashion is my own unique process that was discovered through experimentation. It mimics the slow growth and layering of coral reefs. The strange shapes that the colorful, coral-like sculptures make draw the viewer in. They make the viewer want to reach out and touch. Some people say it makes them want to eat it, as if it were candy.

This painting operates from far-away and up-close; one must stand back to take in the topographic “bird’s-eye-view”, similar to what one may see when flying over the ocean in a plane or helicopter. It also beckons one to move closer to examine the minute sandcastles made of paint.

There are up to 25 layers of paint in most sections of this coral reef painting. Each layer was applied using either a small squeeze bottle or a frosting bag. Each layer took between 24 and 48 hours to dry and could only be applied one at a time due to the weight of the wet paint layer.

The top layer of paint contains glow-in-the-dark pigment, similar to actual forms in nature which possess bioluminescence.

This painting was created over a period of three years, symbolic of the slow rate of growth of our coral reefs found in tropical waters.