

Mark Kulaga

Artist's Statement

I am an emerging artist, working primarily in digital mixed media. I employ contemporary; photographic, and conceptual methodologies in the practice of my creative process.

My art is concerned with more than mimicry or the social politic. It seeks to represent the life found in the ephemeral, birthing a new image through the manipulation of its original form while not harming its essential properties. Isn't that what life is? The rearranging of atoms to formulate what we see and classify.

The series entitled "Of Hearts & Wings" has its origins in found objects that have been discarded but still holding onto their former life signature. I use a nondestructive process, taking a selected form and, like nature, building on it until there is a new form made up of the conglomeration of atoms. A photograph is the bombardment of reflected photons. My art reflects the old life of a found object with a reinvention from the core that becomes a synergistic recombination of it's previous form.

My art is informed by the cycle of birth, life, and death; where death is not an end but a newfound beginning, which extends into another representation within my artistic process. It's a shaping, then re-shaping of our visual reality, beyond the grasp of our visual spectrum bound to philosophy as well science. Both are in search of answers, one looks inward and the other relies on empirical observable information, but my divergence contends that mere observation brings about change.

I have explored various aspects of art, including conceptual, with my own formula. The formula encompasses the elements of observation, creation, meta, and quanta with an homage to the illogical or logical viewpoints considered. Within the framework of conceptual art the observer either finds it logical or illogical, and in my mind both are cancelled out yet represented.

Conceptual Formula

$$C = i + QT - (L^p)$$

i = Formula for intelligence

Q = Quantum

T = Metaphysical

L = Logic

p = Perception

I've combined the formula for intelligence with the basic idea of conceptual art. It's the $e=mc^2$ for art. The basis for all intelligence is finding the most favorable outcome, and I believe embracing this formula as a variable in conceptual art is of the utmost importance. It is as cerebral as any endeavor and seeks it's own outcomes. Human beings need to put things into categories; apply a formula that delivers consistent results.

The simple forms of life conceal great depth and complexities, but the most elegant descriptions and explanations offer us little more than an aesthetically pleasing response to give them clarity. Art reflects our reality, which has been filtered through the ages by misconceptions of the tangible. It is the key which defines reality, and our creative mind attempts to explain what else it might present us. Because we can see; smell; hear and touch something does not define it's essence, only our limited ability to perceive.

My goal is to explore all areas of creativity, and bring about excitement at the possibilities with which art can inspire, in education and through provocative explorations. For me, the main question in life to be answered is not how?—but why? Why do we place limits on our own lives based on a misunderstanding or is it a reluctance to face our own self imposed inhibitions?