A Model for Asylum

Detail of Plan 3 (A Model for Asylum)

An Exhibition of the Series by Andrew Hairstans,
March 25, 2014 – April 12, 2014
Les Idees Gallery 3rd Floor, Duquesne Union, Duquesne University

The Art History Program is delighted to join the Dean’s Office of the McAnulty College of Liberal Arts in sponsoring this exhibition of Andrew Hairstan’s in-progress series “A Model for Asylum.” This significant body of work, which engages with the modernist public housing project Red Road in Glasgow, Scotland, delves into themes of pertinence to Duquesne University’s intellectual community and social commitments. “A Model for Asylum” considers the aspirations, ultimate failures, and obsolescence of an architectural and social ideal. In the process, it uses form, abstraction, and a compelling visual experience as a means of persuading its audience to think deeply, even urgently, about these crucial social issues. We welcome you to the exhibition!

Dr. Julia A. Sienkewicz. Director, Art History Program, Duquesne University

Artist’s Statement: A Model for Asylum deals with three sociological concerns. The first is the impact of brutalist European modernist architecture that was developed within the early 1960s and continued into the 1970s. The second of these concerns is the migratory path of asylum seekers or refugees who form part of the current population of residents within these housing estates (project developments or "projects"). Many of these refugees are currently from Kosovo (the former Yugoslavia), Africa, Asia, Russia, Eastern Europe and Afghanistan. The third deals with surveillance.

This body of work has been created by layering the following imagery: original archival architectural plans of Red Road, Glasgow, Scotland, images gathered from exploring the on-site location, and found imagery produced by media outlets with drawing and multi-media collage elements. The work adopts a postmodern aesthetic due to the splicing together of medium, imagery, and text. For example, found images culled from digital media sources are fused with a variety of materials and drawing. This splicing of imagery and media (form) also alludes to the content (idea) of the project. The borrowed, layered and fused form of the works reflects the splicing together of a socio-political landscape.

I have chosen specific imagery, forms, and materials for this project because of my investment in the connection between form (material and/or imagery) and content (subject matter). I have become interested in layering found photographic imagery with drawn forms and text that make reference to the image but also to the content of the work. A Model for Asylum is a project that explores the use of objective (logical) and subjective (intuitive) drawing and multi-media working methods. Multi-media art is a combination of materials that are fashioned together to form a single work. The forms and text found in the A Model for Asylum series allude to: plans, charts, graphs, and hypothetical architectural designs. The materials used in this specific project are also of significance, they make reference to materials used by the architect.

Andrew Hairstans, Associate Professor, Auburn University at Montgomery
Exhibition Checklist

1. *Socio-technical assemblage*, Xerox transfer, acrylic gesso, graphite, on illustration board, dimensions variable, 2014

2. *Plan 3 (A Model for Asylum)*, Xerox transfer, acrylic gesso, tea staining and graphite on illustration board 10” x 18”, 2011

3. *Plan 1 (Model for Asylum)*, Xerox transfer, acrylic gesso, tea staining and graphite on illustration board, 10 ½” x 16 ½”, 2011

4. *Development Arena (Black Box #1)*, Xerox transfer, acrylic gesso and graphite on gesso board, 16” x 20”, 2014

5. *Development Arena (Recreation Area)*, Xerox transfer, acrylic gesso, graphite on gesso board, 16” x 20”, 2014

6. *Untitled*, MDF, acrylic gesso, household latex, graphite pencil, high gloss enamel, inlaid plywood, Xerox transfer and varnish, 12” x 16 ¾”, 2010

7. *From Russia with Love (Red Road, Glasgow)*, MDF, acrylic gesso, household latex, graphite pencil, high gloss enamel, inlaid plywood, Xerox transfer and varnish, 12” x 16”, 2010

8. *Untitled*, MDF, acrylic gesso, household latex, graphite pencil, high gloss enamel, inlaid plywood, Xerox transfer and varnish, 12” x 16”, 2010

9. *Red Road, Glasgow (From Russia with Love)*, MDF, acrylic gesso, household latex, graphite pencil, high gloss enamel, inlaid plywood, Xerox transfer and varnish, 12” x 15 ¾”, 2010

10. *High-rise*, MDF, acrylic gesso, household latex, graphite pencil, high gloss enamel, inlaid plywood, Xerox transfer and varnish, 12” x 15 ¾”, 2010

11. *Untitled*, Xerox transfer, household latex, graphite pencil, acrylic paint and gloss medium on gesso board, 10” x 8”, 2013

12. *Untitled*, gesso board, Xerox transfer, household latex, graphite pencil, acrylic paint, and gloss medium on gesso board, 10” x 8”, 2013