

Artist's Statement

Drawn freehand directly on a computer and printed with an inkjet printer, my drawings do not contain photographs nor scanned material. As a hybrid process combining the languages of drawing and computer imaging, my practice brings together the opposite notions of handmade and technological, of physical and virtual, of organic and mechanical, of subjective and objective.

The subjects of the aerial view series may be interpreted as models for planned communities as much as aerial views of fictional suburbs, referring to the dual role of the computer as a tool for urban planning as well as image capture. At the intersection of two approaches, mapping and landscape art, the drawings use a perpendicular instead of an angled viewpoint to combine the abstract qualities inherent in maps with the descriptive powers of landscape art. Encouraging a reflective attitude by its distant viewpoint, the aerial view is used here to comment on society's occupation and transformation of nature.

In addition, these invented suburbs exaggerate existing situations and lead the subject matter into the investigative domain of science fiction. Examining the relation between design and actual lived experience, the images subvert the apparent rationality of urban design. Beyond the suburban example, my digital drawings are a way of thinking visually about design, the city and society as a whole.

The images in the human figure series were created in a two-step procedure. I first made drawings in traditional media, liberally transforming reference material borrowed from a diversity of sources. I then drew freehand on the computer using my physical drawings as templates, in yet another interpretative step away from the original material.

These imaginary portraits are in response to my long-standing interest in the human figure. As the subject has garnered considerable interest throughout most of the history of Western art, I am keen on exploring what can be done with it at this point in the twenty-first century, using the capabilities of my chosen art medium. In my opinion, the theme has been somewhat neglected in the contemporary art world of the last few decades. I am particularly interested in the interaction between subject matter and form, in the give and take between the independence of the shapes that build the picture and their collaboration that creates the recognizable figure, in the tension between the making of the image (as evidenced by the clarity of the formal elements) and the overall result (a fictional individual).