

May 2016

Zymoglyphic Museum  
211 SE Madison St #20  
Portland, OR 97214

Exhibition Proposal for June 2106

I'm excited to learn about the Zymoglyphic Museum and to recognize an affinity of shared interests. Inspired by its collection of unique specimens that harken back to the sentiments of discovery during the Renaissance and Enlightenment, I'm taken by the museum's focus on natural history and curiosity for real and fictitious life forms that go unseen, unthought of, or unnoticed; especially objects of dust and a curation that honors the abstruse. I notice a commonality in the desire to stimulate fascination for the created world. Exhibiting in the Zymoglyphic Museum gallery space would be a great privilege and opportunity to position my work within the unfoldings of an evolving conversation: part scientific, part spiritual, and open to discovering truth through that which is made.

I plan to show a body of work that will extend itself into the realm of sculpture by actively displaying select specimens from my insect collection. I am inspired by reliquaries and I have created vessels to contain these insignificant artifacts of the natural world, memorializing and highlighting their mundane fragility. By raising up that which is socially feared and disgusted I hope to exemplify a humble state of beauty present in even the most lowly forms of life. Not at all ornate in structural design as the reliquaries found within the tradition of Roman Catholicism, and not overtly coffin-esque, I have appropriated the basic form of a keepsake box and simultaneously treated it as a painting. Each box is like a swatch from the night sky that fits in the palm of your hand; they are not just abstract constellations, but also tiny representations of the treasure resting inside; a literal "dust collector".

Alongside the boxes, I will show a handful of drawings that I am currently developing through a residency at Holy Rosary Church. I have been granted access to the sacred vessels and sacramentals in their sacristy and I am studying these ornate forms from observation in a similar way to how I have been drawing dead insects. This new work will be shown alongside a few previous drawings in order to trace a thread of themes from over the past six years.

As the liturgical Church calendar moves away from the seasons of Lent and Easter, the current period of Ordinary Time gives me pause to reflect on the depths of the most important mysteries of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Carrying that encounter with me and into my work, I remember a verse from holy scripture which strikes me every year as we are marked with ashes, "For you are dust, and to dust you shall return", Genesis Chapter 3:19 echoes in my eyesight as I draw. Conceptually, the work in this show reflects upon this reality and continually seeks to ignite reverence as I depict this dimension ever forming in Christ even as now we hear in Mass from James 4:14, "you have no idea what your life will be like tomorrow. You are a puff of smoke that appears briefly and then disappears."