Dennis Lick

Artist’s Statement

My interests are highly varied, especially subjects in other disciplines, including the sciences of astronomy, cosmology, and particle physics. To me everything in nature and civilization seems dense, contradictory, and complicated. What I do as an artist must reflect that.

One of my ongoing pursuits is collecting objects and curiosities. My taste runs high and low, from elegant to trifling, from industrial to handmade, from eccentric to commonplace. My domestic and studio environments contain eye-dazzling arrays of “still lifes,” the evidence of my acquisitive habits. The visual cacophony feeds my art.

Ironically, as an antidote to humankind’s vicissitudes, the collage medium is also a release from the limits of those realities. My images operate outside universal laws. I can fragment perspective and defy gravity, float below the horizon, or fly above it. In my pictures time and space have no boundaries. Past, present, and future tenses can flow into their own narrative form like film, music, novels, and comic strips.

The urban environment in which we all navigate and that has profound influence -- especially in its juxtaposition with nature – is a baffling mash up of opposites, which explains how an individual can feel rage and ecstasy at the same time. It is the best of times; it is the worst of times. While I do not want to preach or illustrate, I make art to come to grips with these crucial issues. The environment, the planet, and the universe are never far from my thoughts.

Art is my attempt to take a flawed, indifferent world and remake it into a utopian ideal, one where dreams, fantasies, and speculation about reality can blend and mix to suggest responses to the big questions. Who are we? Where are we going? What if? Is it possible?