Approaching Creativity Outside the Lines

Artwork and Creative Research by Carla Rokes

My current body of work features two creative processes: experimental animation via 16mm and digital film montage, and figurative abstraction using mixed media drawing techniques. My research includes an investigation of the "Process Art" movement and the stages of creativity in children. Process Art is a contemporary artistic movement that began in the 1960s, and emphasizes the practice of includes an investigation of the "Process Art" movement and the plan or end product. Similarly, children learn through process-oriented activities involving exploration, play, and flexibility - problem solving through direct involvement with materials and processes. direct involvement with materials and processes.

Making art in a process-oriented direction encourages a synchronized problem finding and problem solving progression and allows an artist to approach a problem or challenge in a imaginative and innovative way, to anticipate the unexpected, and to balance control with accident. I learned this first hand after becoming a parent, as my work evolved in an unusual and inevitable new direction. Observing children make art and making art with my own children, has led to a more open approach in my studio and teaching practice. Exploration, play, coincidence, and discovering relationships by chance have become important components in my studio experience. Through "making" art, one can learn that problems can have multiple solutions and that questions can have multiple answers. Process-oriented directions help redefine a problem, and may lead to new, innovative responses and solutions, allowing one to approach creativity outside the lines.

Artwork: Film (16mm and digital film montage), 2016-2017

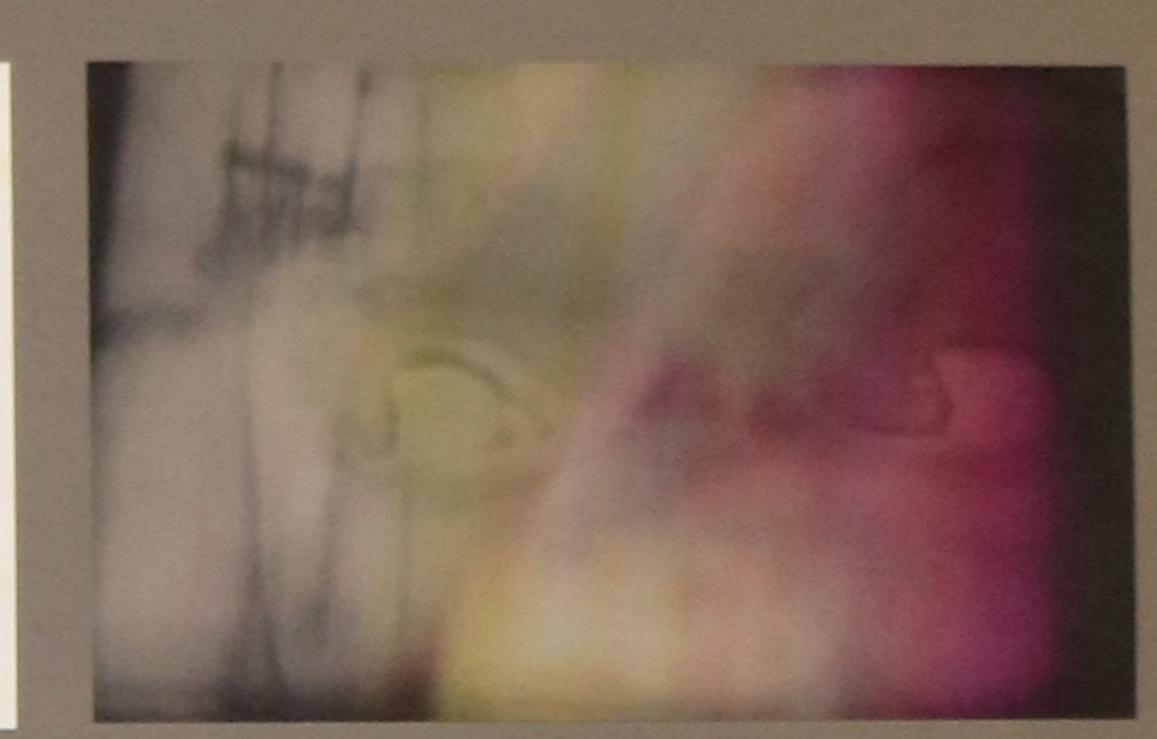
"AS BLACK AS EBONY WOOD", Film Montage (16mm and Digital), Film Length: 4:26, 2017

Description: This film montage involes direct animation on found footage from 16mm film stock layered with digital video. This work offers a loose, associative and dream-like structure that addresses memory, fear, and gender normatives, and was inspired by the undercurrent of princess culture among young girls.









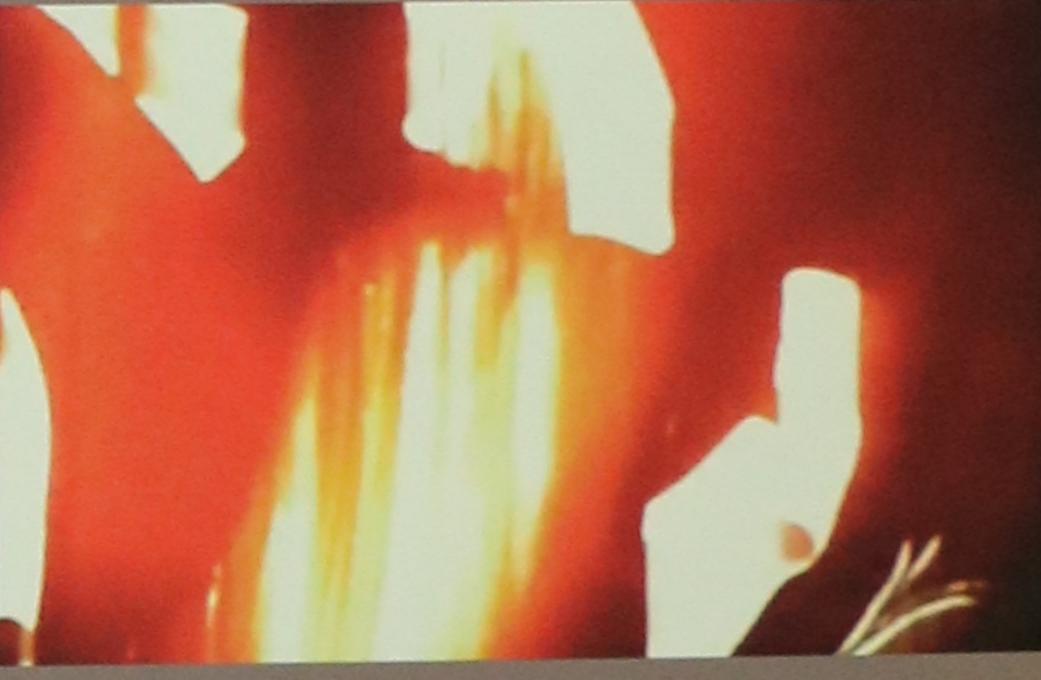
"EXPERIMENTAL DRAWING ON 16MM FILM", Mixed Media on 16mm Clear Leader Film, Film Length: 3:45, 2016

Description: This film was produced using a process referred to as "Direct Animation", which involves applying images directly onto celluloid film by drawing, painting, scratching, and collaging. This abstract animation includes overlapping colors, lines, shapes, and textures that grow, transform, accelerate, soften and transition, resulting in 2D graphics set in motion when seen through a 16mm projector. Thiw work was produced in ART 4700, Drawing into New Forms, with art majors Alfredo Irra, Ashley Nordquist, and Katina Oxendine. Direction, editing, and music by Professor Carla Rokes.









Artwork: Tradigital (Traditional Drawing Media Combined with Digital), 2012-2014

Work from this time period explores hybrid drawing methods via the deconstruction of fairy tales, myths, folklore, and popular media. This body of work blends hand-drawn elements with found images from catalogues, coloring books, children's books, and blurred or partially revealed images that waiver between figuration and abstraction.

My process involves combining traditional and digital techniques of fragmentation, alteration and re-contextualization to encourage an interchangeable narrative.

Exploration, play, coincidence, and discovering relationships by chance are important components in my process.





Mammatus, Tradigital (Mixed Media Drawing and Digital), 20"x16", 2012



Jelly Sabine, Tradigital (Mixed Media Drawing and Digital), 16'x20', 2012





