

Sabbatical Report
From
Alan Leitner
Fall 2008

The objectives of my sabbatical were to:

1. Digitize slides for course material
2. Develop course material for Art 123 Introduction to Painting, Art 223 Intermediate Painting, and Art 115 Introduction to Design.

I had been using over 1100 slides for both my studio and Art 101 courses. They were getting old and dirty. An attempt at cleaning them a few years ago produced minimal results. I bought a slide scanner and began converting each of them to digital format. I didn't know what I was getting myself into until I got started. The process was tedious and time consuming. Many images needed photoshop enhancement and some could not be salvaged. I replaced many and updated others. I catalogued the material into separate powerpoint lectures from Paleolithic cave art to modern and contemporary art. I also created lectures for design elements and principles and specific topics ranging from painting and drawing to printmaking. I organized a database consisting of topics including categories for Cubism, Abstract Expressionism, Fauvism and others.

I spent the first few weeks working on SLOs for all 2-D studio art courses. , This is something I had not anticipated. I developed these for Art 113 Introduction to Drawing, Art 213 Intermediate Drawing, Art 214 Life Drawing- classes taught by lecturers. Some of the core outlines for these classes needed to be up-dated in addition to the SLOs. Art 123 Introduction to Painting, Art 115 Introduction to Design, Art 223 Intermediate Painting, and Art 113D Introduction to Computer Drawing are classes I teach. These courses had SLOs, but the Assessment Committee found some inconsistencies so I re-did them. I was on the Faculty Senate and attended all but one meeting during my sabbatical.

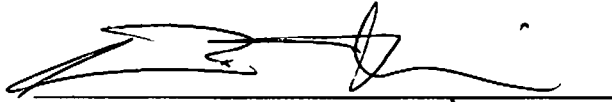
I was present at the meeting during which my course modifications were approved. I developed Art 223, Intermediate Painting and taught it for the first time in Fall 2009. I re-tooled my design course to be taught in the computer lab. I had to revise some of the course material so that it would not be too difficult for those who have little experience working with Adobe software. Some projects would not translate well in a digital format so I had to develop new projects.

I created visual aids for my painting class. One was a portrait which I entered into a portrait competition, "Shaefer Portrait Challenge 2009," and was accepted. The painting was on view at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center from January 6 to February 22, 2009 and was on view at The Contemporary Museum at First Hawaiian Center from May 29 to September 8, 2009. On September 4, 2009 I gave a gallery talk about the painting. It was also featured in a story in the Honolulu Advertiser on May 24, 2009. I am not known as a figurative painter, so it has been interesting fielding some of the comments and reactions. The other visual aid is a three phase step-by-step painting of a still-life demonstrating the stages from *imprematura* (underpainting) to *graisile* to color.

In light of my additional, studio time I secured a one-man exhibition of my paintings to be held at the Cedar Street Gallery in Honolulu, scheduled to open April 10 2009. I completed 16 paintings which ranged in size from 47" x 47" to 24" x 30". Some of the faculty and many of my students and their families attended the opening. For many it was their first art show experience. I have always considered my studio practice to be an extension of my classroom. Having a teacher who is a practicing artist brings a dynamic of credibility and prestige, as well as a level of seriousness and dignity to the art program.

During my sabbatical I wanted to do some traveling. My wife, who is also an art educator, was not able to take leave of her teaching during the fall semester. Instead we planned a 5 week trip to Europe for the following summer.. We traveled to Stockholm, Estonia, St. Petersburg, Prague and London, though the focal point of the trip was to see the Venice Biennale, which opened in June. This is one of the longest running

international art expos in the world beginning in 1895. The expo contains permanent pavilions representing over 27 nations. It provides the opportunity to experience contemporary art on a grand scale in a venue unlike any other. Following our visit to Venice we also visited the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, the London National Gallery, The Tate Modern, and the Satchi Gallery in London, the Stockholm Museum of Modern the Spanish Synagogue and the St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Leitner', written over a horizontal line.

Alan Leitner