



A highly modern and creative solo exhibit by John F. Simon, Jr., *Well Planned Improvisations*, is on display in the Mindy Ross Gallery from March 8 - May 10, 2016. The gallery is located in Kaplan Hall at SUNY Orange.

His eclectic body of work from 2008 to the present includes Software Art, CAD/CAM paintings, and non-digital drawings. Every day, Simon creates a drawing using pencil, watercolor, or gouache. His creative process for these drawings is intuitive and improvisational. From these, he finds source material that inspires his larger works that he creates with technological means. His *Morada* and *Pendulum* pieces from the *Color and Time* series continually iterate compositional and color space variations driven by custom written software. In the larger machine carved works, such as *RiverCycle*, digital methods are employed with a CNC router that cuts and engraves the wood before it is painted and covered in formica. Simon likes to finish larger pieces by returning to the practice of drawing lines by hand directly on the surface. With non-digital and technological processes blending together, he explores a relevant dichotomy in the contemporary world.

John F. Simon, Jr. is one of the pioneers in the development of Software Art and since the mid-1980s, is renowned in this area for articulating the use of code in digital and multimedia works. An integral person in the early community of artists and curators who created the first wave of software applications, web-based projects, and digital approaches to art making, he with his colleagues paved the way for the continuance of expanding in new directions every year. In 2011, Simon collaborated with Icelandic singer Björk to write an app for her album, *Biophilia*, the first app album ever created.

Simon holds a BA in Art (Studio) and a BS in Geology from Brown University. He continued on to study Earth and Planetary Sciences and receive an MA at Washington University, St. Louis, MO. Then turning his attention to art, he earned

an MFA in Computer Art at the School of Visual Arts in NYC. He subsequently taught at SVA until 1993 when he began his full-time studio practice. His artworks can be found in the permanent collections of The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, The Museum of Modern Art in New York, Collezione Maramotti, The Brooklyn Museum, The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and The Whitney Museum of American Art where his seminal work "Every Icon" was included in the 2000 Biennial.

In cooperation with Newburgh Last Saturdays #NBLs, a reception will be held on April 30 from 4 - 7pm. At 5:30pm, Donna Spector will read from her new books, *Lessons*, a chapbook of poems, and *Two Worlds*, a full-length collection of recent work.

Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 9am - 5pm. The gallery is also open on Sunday, April 10 from 2:30 - 5pm and on Mondays, April 4 and 18 until 8:30pm and April 11 until 9pm. In the gallery on Tuesday, April 26 at 12:15pm, Simon will give a master class titled, *Boundary Conditions: Drawing in a Digital World*. The exhibit, reception, and master class are free and open to the public. Kaplan Hall is located at the corner of Grand and First Streets, Newburgh, NY. Free and secure parking is available in the Kaplan Hall garage accessible at 73 First Street.

Questions may be addressed to Cultural Affairs at cultural@sunyorange.edu or 845-341-4891/9386. You may also view the Cultural Affairs website at www.sunyorange.edu/culturalaffairs.