



CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**

City of Palo Alto Staff Report to Public Art Commission

September 15, 2022

RE: Agenda Item 4

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Public Art Commission accept the donation of artwork by Cubberley artist Patrick Fenton into the City collection.

Discussion:

This generous gift is being offered by the CASP artists as part of the Cubberley Artist Studio Program (CASP) agreement. According to the CASP Guidelines, all CASP artists are expected to donate one of his/her artworks in their first (4-year) residency term to the City's Public Art Program. The donation is subject to the approval of the Public Art Commission and, upon acceptance, will be deemed a gift made under terms and conditions established by City.

Patrick Fenton

Patrick Fenton was selected into the Cubberley Artist Studio Program in 2018. Patrick uses design to make connections. He has worked extensively with companies to align products and brands, to depict mission-critical data, and to design and represent complex systems. Extending his design practice to the classroom, Patrick is a Lecturer in Stanford's design program where he teaches product design, visual communications, and design thinking fundamentals to students across disciplines. A firm believer in visual research, Patrick supplements his time as a designer and educator with exploratory work in the lab where he investigates identity, labels, forms, and patterns, and produces letterpress and risograph editions. Fenton spent 10 years teaching in the Industrial Design and Fine Arts departments at Pratt Institute in New York. In life and at work, he is focused on using design tools and processes to improve experiences and amplify interests.

The artwork offered for donation is titled *Emote Control*, 2022. Fenton states: “*Emote Control* emerged from an exploration of instruments of well-being. Inspired by the complexity of sounds that can be generated from analog synthesizers and MIDI controllers, and the difficulty and care that goes into mastering them, they emerged as the perfect metaphorical vehicles for controlling emotions. It is about the practice and concentration that it takes to understand the interface between ourselves and our well-being, and the infinite states of mind that can be summoned through all of the inputs”.

Image of Proposed Artwork:



EMOTE CONTROL, 2022 by Patrick Fenton

Artist Proof; 3 color silkscreen, 24"x36"

Patrick Fenton

EXPERIENCE

- Jan 2022 – Present** **Instructor/Designer** EAST PALO ALTO, CA
EPACENTER
As a creative youth development organization, EPACENTER increases opportunities for East Palo Alto youth to amplify their talents, realize their potential, and impact their world through art and design. Patrick teaches visual arts classes and works on special projects.
- Jan 2017 – Present** **CASP Studio Artist** PALO ALTO, CA
CUBBERLEY ARTIST STUDIO PROGRAM
As an artist in Palo Alto's Cubberley Artist Studio Program, Patrick explores the documentation of time and place, identity, transition, patterns, labels, certificates, interfaces, well-being, and education. The studio itself is a visual maker space – an experimental place that drives creative expression, community interactions, and art + design education.
- AY 2021-2022** **Lecturer, Stanford University,** STANFORD, CA
COURSES:
DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
Winter ME 101 **Experiences in Visual Thinking**
Visual thinking and language skills are developed and exercised in the context of solving design problems. Exercises for the mind's eye. Rapid visualization and prototyping with emphasis on fluent and flexible idea production.
- Fall** ME 125 **Visual Frontiers**
The student will learn how to use graphic design to communicate online, in person, and through printed matter. Fundamentals of visual communications will be applied to branding exercises, typographic studies, color explorations, drawing exercises, use of photography, and use of grid and layout systems.
- Fall, Winter, Spring** ME391 + ME191 Independent Studies:
- June 2001 – Present** **Swayspace,** BROOKLYN, NY + SAN FRANCISCO, CA
POSITION: PARTNER
Co-founder and partner of studio dedicated to the design and production of commercial and independent projects through collaboration with artists, business people, and designers from many disciplines. With an emphasis on process, and roots in product design, graphic design, and fine arts, Swayspace has realized projects in user experience, interface design, letterpress printing, identity, book design, and bag design.
- September 2005 –** **Visiting Instructor, Pratt Institute,** NEW YORK, NY
May 2014 INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AND FINE ARTS DEPARTMENTS
COURSES INCLUDE: IND201-202 **Sophomore Design Studio**
Concerned with design from concept to conclusion, this two-part course involves the student in all aspects of the design process, and incorporates skills and knowledge gathered from most of the other courses in the sophomore year.
- IND 516 **Prototypes II: Lifecycle of the Cereal Box** (*sponsored by General Mills*)

Patrick Fenton

An investigation into the future of breakfast, and specifically the future of cereal packaging, the entire lifecycle of cereal was examined and the students worked together (as if all in a design firm) to produce multiple concepts. Cereal Sushi still stands out...

IND 660 Directed Research I

The objective of this course is to explore and experience the role of research in the design process. Emphasis is on understanding the cultures that surround us. Understanding a culture is critical to determining its needs. Defining these needs will allow us to formulate criteria which we will use to identify design opportunities. Design solutions will be tested and validated until they meet the needs of the culture.

IND 401A-02 Senior Transportation Studio, Taxi 07 (in conjunction with Design Trust for Public Space, TLC, Cooper Hewitt, and Smart Design)

Taxi 07 was a transportation class, and part of a consortium led by Design Trust for Public Space that investigated all aspects of the New York City taxicab system and vehicles, followed by an exhibition at the New York Auto Show.

PRNT 563 Letterpress Text & Image

Development of creative and technical skills concurrently involved in producing letterpress work. Feedback and direction is aimed at both the artist and the artisan in each student. Students are helped to develop high standards for both design and printing with the expectation that they produce professional caliber letterpress artifacts.

1999-2001

idrive, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Directed and designed new interface, static web pages, identity, business plan, and collateral for online storage provider.

1998

Freitag Bros, ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

SUMMER INTERN

Generated concepts for future products for the Swiss bag company: sketches/models/prototypes.

1997-1999

T.D.I.C.T. Training for the Development of Innovative Control Technology, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Generated product concepts for preventing exposure to bloodborne pathogens; created curriculum and co-taught "Design Evaluation Course" to homecare nurses; observed in surgical, emergency, and homecare settings.

1997-1999

Stanford University, PALO ALTO, CA

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Mechanical Engineering 116B (needfinding: focusing on MUNI operator safety);
Mechanical Engineering 313 (Ambidextrous Thinking: rapid ideation, visual communications, mechanical construction); Modern Design History.

EDUCATION:

1996-1999

Stanford University

MFA PRODUCT DESIGN

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718 360 7452

Patrick Fenton

(joint program between the Art and Mechanical Engineering departments) coursework includes Integrated design for Marketing and Manufacturability; Needfinding; Digital Art for Public Spaces; Human Computer Interaction; Thesis work in portability.

1993-1994
1995-1996

Il Bisonte Scuola Internazionale per la Grafica d'Arte

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Studied traditional printmaking processes; awarded grant for second year of study

1989-1994

University of California, Los Angeles

BA DESIGN

Studies included textiles, design history, space planning, and industrial design, with an emphasis on visual communications.

RECENT GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 2022 RESTART (Restarting and Rebuilding after COVID)
PALO ALTO ART CENTER, PALO ALTO, CA
- 2021 ArtUp Palo Alto (Interactive Print Exhibition)
PALO ALTO, CA
- 2016 After Loft (The space between art and design)
STANFORD DESIGN ALUMNI SHOW, SF, CA
- 2013 Published by the Artist
INTERNATIONAL PRINT CENTER, NEW YORK, NY
- 2012 Industrial Design Faculty Exhibition
RUBELLE AND NORMAN SCHAFLEER GALLERY
- 2012 Published by the Artist
INTERNATIONAL PRINT CENTER, NEW YORK, NY
- 2011 New York Writes Itself
ART DIRECTORS' CLUB, NEW YORK, NY
- 2010 The Art of Craftsmanship Revisited (*produced by LVMH, Parsons*)
GOVERNORS ISLAND, NEW YORK, NY