

TRADIGITAL ART CATALOG 2024



Edward A. Burke

The selection of artwork for this catalog embraces merging traditional drawing and painting techniques with digital mediums. This fusion, which I have dubbed “*Tradigital,” has resulted in large-scale monoprints, projections, and digital monitor images, further amplifying the visual communication of my work.

The work's inspiration comes from the ongoing destruction of our environment and dream visions. Although these may seem like distinct origins, environmental issues have played a significant role in shaping my dreams over the years.

George Kondogainis's expertise in digital media and master printing contribute to the quality of this digital expression. He is one of the world's foremost digital imaging experts and fine art inkjet printers.

I am seeking a suitable exhibition space to exhibit this artwork and engage viewers in meaningful discussions about the works' environmental narratives. These interactions can help incrementally improve the environment for future generations.

TRADIGITAL ART CATALOG 2024

Edward A. Burke



"Eating Your Toys" 20239 Tradigital / Monoprint 60" x 60" (Bethel CT Studio)

"EATING YOUR TOYS 2023"

This new tradigital adaptation of my 2014 painting "Eating Your Toys," conveys the same message as the original. I used a large-scale image of the original painting, brought it into a digital environment, added new objects, and manipulated various layers in my Apple Mini computer to produce this dramatic monoprint.

This original painting was my response to the endless pollution crisis of the world's oceans. The title "Eating Your Toys" addresses my hypothesis that our toys may have ended up as waste in our oceans when we were children.

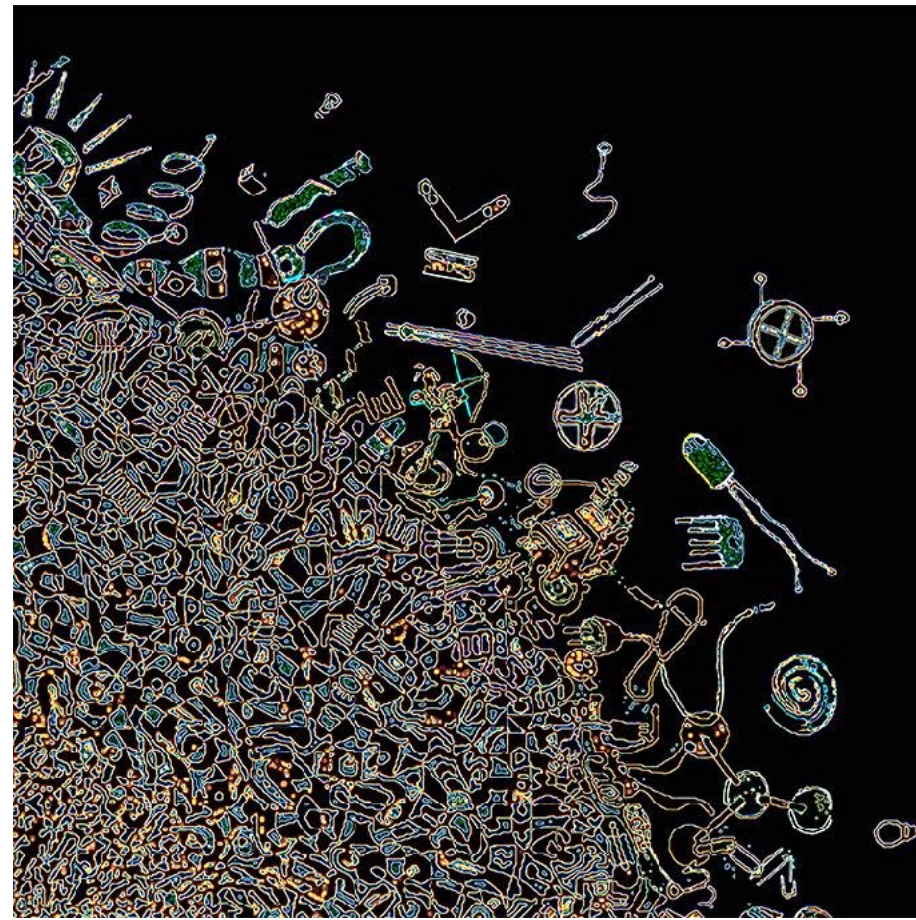
The central theme revolves around the concept that these cherished childhood items, such as toy soldiers, figurines, ping pong balls, and dolls, have become part of the marine ecosystem in a harmful way. Over time, they degrade into tiny particles known as microplastics, often mistaken for food by marine creatures. This misidentification creates a ripple effect up the food chain, ultimately leading to humans unknowingly consuming these microplastics when enjoying seafood like salmon, tuna, and lobster.

Through this artwork, I aim to shed light on the consequences of our society's disposable culture and the long-lasting impact of plastic waste on our environment. The circular composition can be seen as a universe of or a single micro-plastic of pollutants, depending on the observation distance. At the same time, the gathering of these objects symbolizes the entrapment of our collection of childhood memories within this ecological crisis. It's a sobering reminder that we are literally "eating our toys."

I invite viewers to reflect on the interconnectedness of our actions and the environment, inspiring even modest changes in our behavior that may provide a more sustainable approach to the world's oceans. I hope the artwork engages the audience emotionally, sparking both concern and curiosity about the fate of our planet and the discarded toys of our past.



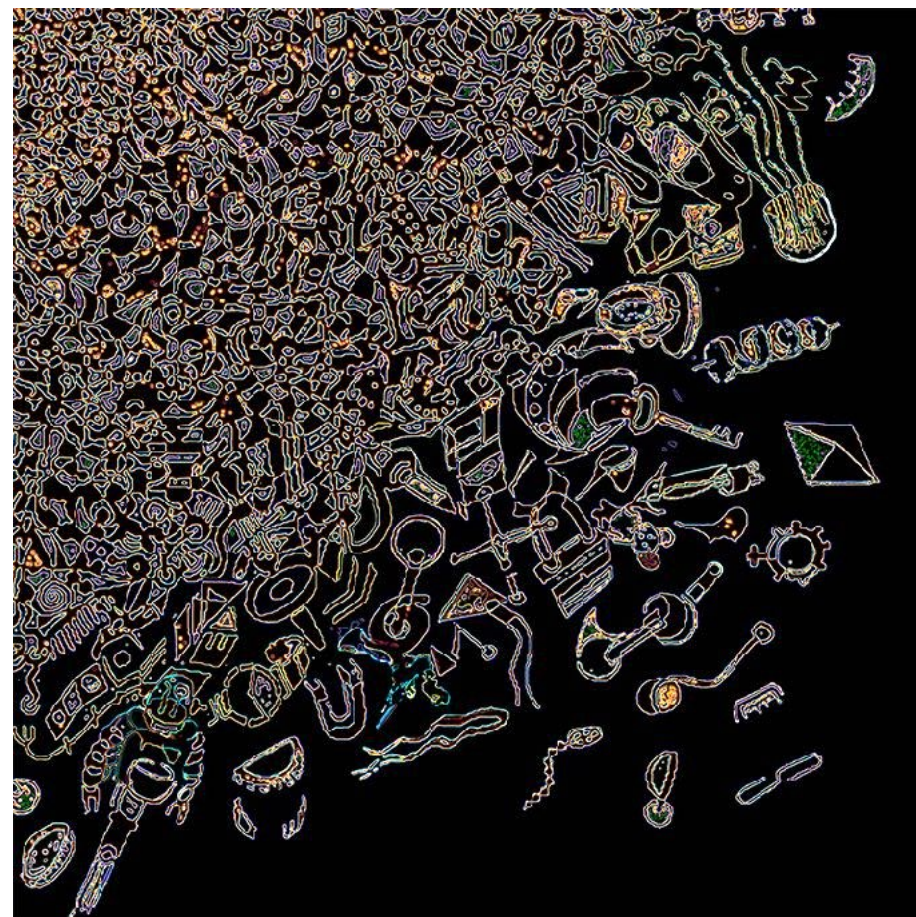
Upper Left Detail



Upper Right Detail



Lower Left Detail



Lower Right Detail



"Falling Sky" 2022 Tradigital / Monoprint 36" x 45" (Bethel CT Studio)



"Cause & Effect" 2023 Tradigital / Monoprint 60" x 60" (Bethel CT Studio)

"CAUSE & EFFECT"

In "Cause & Effect," I attempt to convey the impact of human activities on the fragile biosphere that sustains us. The central figure, prominently positioned in the foreground, represents humanity itself. The head of the figure emits billowing smokestacks, releasing toxic emissions into the atmosphere. This imagery symbolizes how our actions have dire consequences for the environment.

But this portrayal has a twist—the cube replacing the figure's skull. This cube signifies humans understanding of the planet's importance and vital resources. It's as if he is aware of the damage he's causing, trapped in a mental cube of realization. This juxtaposition of the industrial and the cognitive creates a powerful commentary on the human condition.

Above the central figure are suspended cubes representing manufactured objects created at any cost to our planet. Within these cubes are symbolic life forms encapsulated and destroyed by the relentless pursuit of production. The sky's unnatural colors, and the figure's skeletal depiction further emphasize the narrative of ecological degradation and human destruction.

Interestingly, an observer once pointed out the whimsical aspect of this artwork, drawing a connection to René Magritte's "Son of Man." I couldn't help but agree with this observation. It's a reminder that art often has layers of interpretation, and sometimes, even in the face of such a severe issue, a touch of whimsy can spark deeper contemplation. We are, after all, the products of art history, consciously or unconsciously. In embracing this whimsy, we might find a more engaging way to engage with the urgent issues artwork seeks to address.



"Dream Crow" 2022 Tradigital / Monoprint 36" x 45" (Bethel CT Studio)



"Dream - No Way Home" 2022. Tradigital / Monoprint 60" x 60" (Bethel CT Studio)



"Ghost of the Monkey Puzzle Tree" 2024 Tradigital / Monoprint 36" x 54.25"
(Bethel CT Studio)



"Dream - Starling Night" 2023 Tradigital / Monoprint 36" x 45" (Bethel CT Studio)

“DEAD BEE”

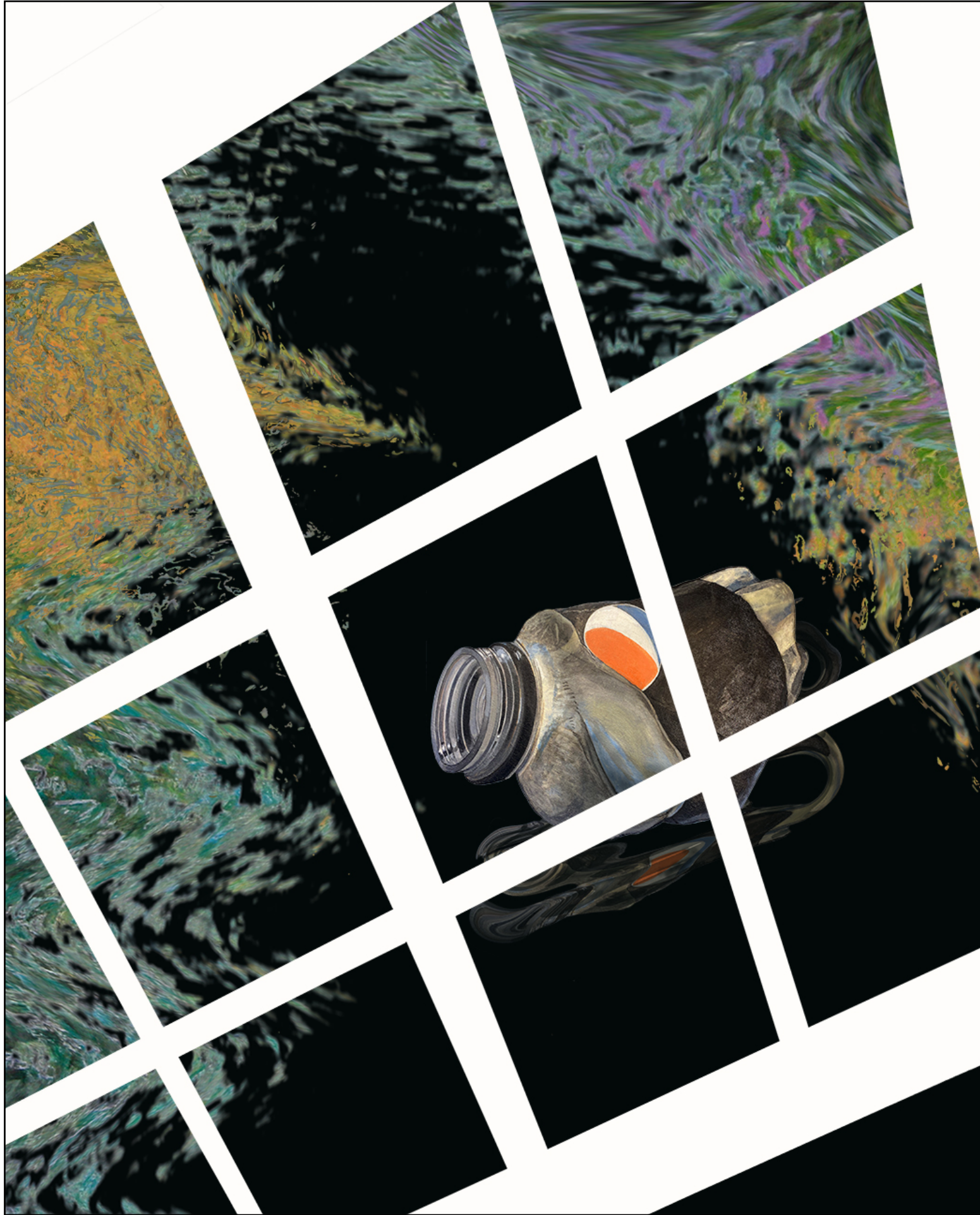
"Dead Bee" represents the issue of colony collapse disorder and the alarming decline in global bee populations—the connection between rising CO2 levels and their devastating impact on bees. The smokestacks with billowing yellow smoke represent endless manufacturing, releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and impacting the life of the bee centered in the composition. This depiction conveys the stark reality of heightened atmospheric CO2 levels, primarily from manufacturing activities, substantially reducing protein content within pollen.

Researchers' findings highlight the critical role of protein in pollen as a vital food source for honey bees. The decline in protein availability significantly hampers the reproduction ability of these essential pollinators. As "Dead Bee" infers, this reduction in bee populations poses a severe threat to food resources, given that bees are pivotal in pollinating approximately 60% of humankind's agricultural foods.

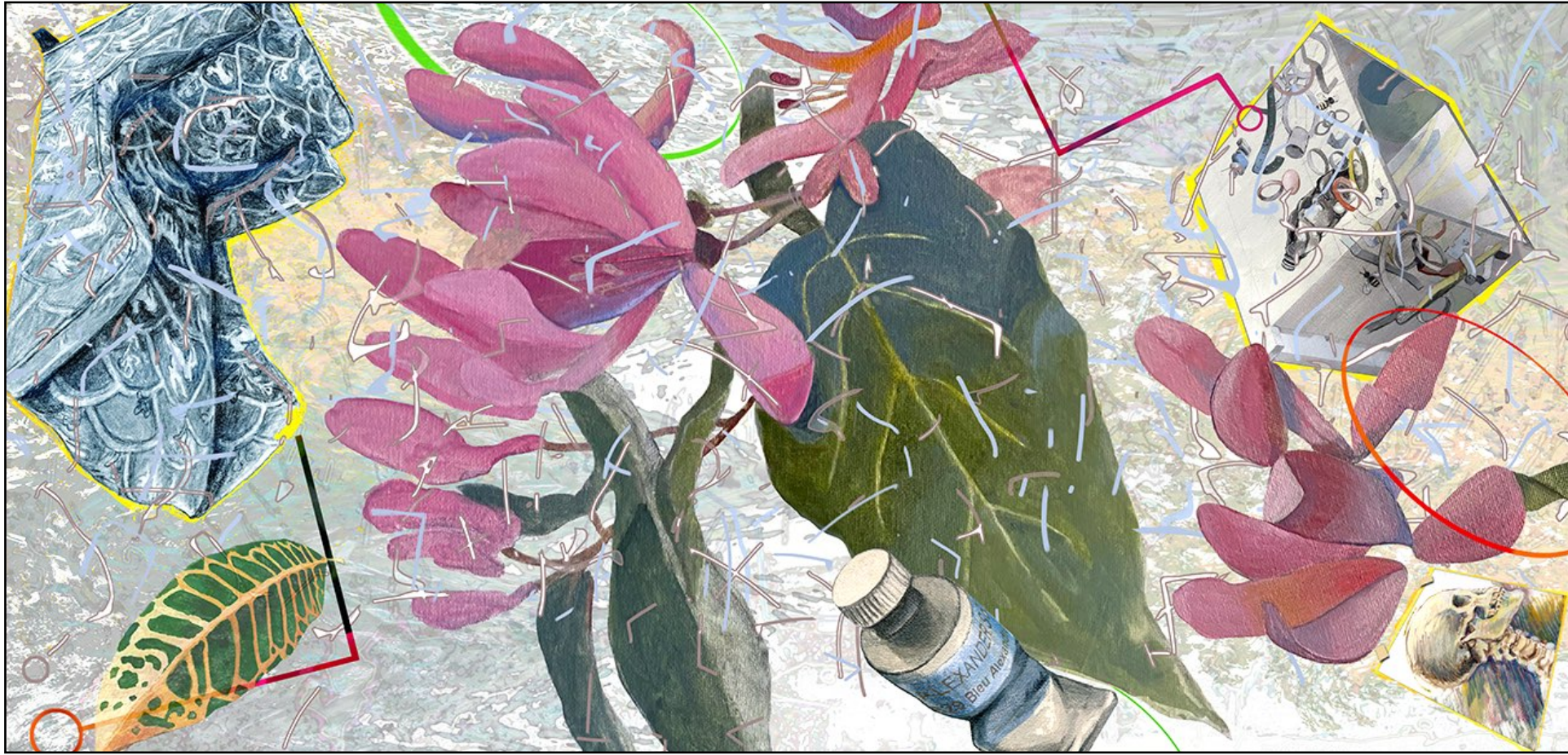
My intention in this artwork is to help raise awareness about bee populations' immediate peril and underscore the intricate balance between human activities, environmental factors, and the delicate ecosystems that sustain our food sources.



"Dead Bee". 2021 Tradigital / Monoprint 36" x 45" (Bethel CT Studio)



"Dream - Adrift" 2021 Tradigital / Monoprint 36" x 45". (Bethel CT Studio)



"Storm Warning AM & PM" 2021 Tradigital / Monoprints 48" x 23" (Bethel CT Studio)

“STORM WARNING AM & PM”

I hope this tradigital art serves as a visual reminder to the viewer of global warming and climate change, manifesting in the heightened severity of storms and extreme weather conditions that are becoming increasingly prevalent. The inspiration for these two works draws from NASA's reports on extreme storms over Earth's tropical oceans, with a 2018 study reinforcing global warming as the primary driver behind the intensification and increased frequency of such storms.

The chaotic swirling of human belongings in the sky underscores the tragic impact of these recurring storms. The staggering annual release of approximately six and a half metric tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere, resulting from burning fuels and manufacturing processes, points to a significant human environmental footprint. The role of disposable goods in contributing to greenhouse gases, citing the alarming rise in eWaste in 2019, which reached a staggering 53.5 million metric tons.

"Through this artistic expression, the artist prompts reflection on the consequences of our consumption patterns, emphasizing the environmental toll of manufacturing and disposal practices. The link invites viewers to delve deeper into the artist's exploration of these themes through his artwork."

--- Kathryn Barns Smith



George Kondogainis and Edward Burke reviewing proof of "Eating Your Toys" at Bethel CT Studio