

ARTIST STATEMENT

For me, working digitally creates a never ending plethora of possibilities as the process removes the preciousness of the art object. Unlike the drawing or film negative, as long as files are backed up you have *exact* duplicates of the original image or video, which invites (if not dictates) experimentation and taking chances. For me, this is where the excitement comes in making images. By taking chances and risks and not being afraid to lose control of the work, you create an atmosphere and willingness to push your idea into directions you might not have taken if the form was a unique artwork. As a visual artist, I sometimes like to explore and combine media. A lot of my recent work is installation or performance based and incorporates 3D computer animation and video projection, Interactive and Web Design. I am presently working on a series of cardboard boxes (recycled art) used as blackboxes for small video presentations around the theme "fragile".

PAUL HARTLEY STATEMENT

I went to East Carolina's Art School during a period that what was to my mind a Renaissance period in the department (1972-1984 for BFA and then MFA). Many of my peers went on to become successful artists and art educators. We all hold a special place in our hearts for Paul Hartley. He was that special combination of great teacher and great artist...but also he was so great as a person. He treated us young art students more like colleagues, respectful and thoughtful in talking about our work. Always a calming force- especially in class critique, Paul was a true gentleman in every sense of the word.

I took a class early in my undergrad career with Paul in Mixed Media, where we were encouraged to try everything but the kitchen sink in our work, disregarding all traditional tools and media. Probably no other class had a more profound impact on the direction my future work would take. Most of Paul's students expanded upon Paul's example in how he approached media. At the time he had been experimenting with fabric and stitching, painting on glass, and 3D sculptures. Students were amazed at how prolific Paul was as a painter, especially given his dazzling technique. Paul taught us discipline, and how to anticipate and recognize the happy accident.

Edison Midgett 828-264-7096 midgettae@appstate.edu <http://edmidgett.com>