

Sponsor: Christophe Bourely & Larry Lytle

Department: Art

Activity Title: The human impact on Santa Rosa Island: an artistic approach

Date (s) of activity: April 24-26, 2015

(1) Provide a description of the activity:

The topic of the activity was “the human impact on Santa Rosa Island: an artistic approach.” In a preliminary discussion with students, professors Bourely and Lytle asked their students to consider what human impact on a pristine environment meant to them and then how to visually portray what they observed. During guided and unaccompanied hikes on the island, students took photographs that they associated with their understanding of human impact and its effect.

Once familiarized with their surroundings, Lytle’s photo students chose a personal response to the interchange between human usage of nature and the permanent and temporary traces of that exchange. Bourely’s students paid particular attention to the seemingly natural landscape and imagined how a human impact might have affected it in the past or will affect it in the future.

Photography students will edit their images and create a coherent body of work that visually comments on their experience. They will then print and mount their photographs. Painting students also took photographic studies related to their interpretation with the purpose of using the photographs, upon their return, as the basis for paintings. As a result, the activity spans documentation and interpretation through these two visual media. Both mounted photographs and paintings will be displayed in an art exhibit on campus in fall 2015. The students will also present the Research Center with images for placement in bedrooms and common areas.

(2) How did the activity relate to a course(s) and/or learning objectives?

The activity directly related to both photography and painting students in regards to their further understanding of image making as it relates to composition, forms and content.

(3) What do you see as the strengths of the activity?

The strengths of the activity were apparent in the focus, concentration and camaraderie that students displayed during the field trip. Their reaction to an unfamiliar and isolated environment was novel and thought provoking, which gave them a new and challenging subject to contemplate vis-à-vis their artwork.

(4) What would you say are/were the activity’s weaknesses?

Unfortunately four students canceled less than two days before departure.

(5) How would you improve this activity for next time?

I would make sure that if students cancel less than 72 hours in advance they

would need to show a written and signed reason.

(6) What did you learn from the process?

We learned that students do much better when they are not distracted by cell phones or the internet. Added to that, the enforced isolation created a bond that has lasted beyond the field trip.

(7) What are student responses to the activity? Attach student evaluations or assessments (in accordance with FERPA restrictions you must remove all personally identifiable student information)

8) Give a summary of expenses for the activity.

Island Packers Boat Trip:	\$2,704
Food:	\$659.09
Art Supplies:	\$1,100
TOTAL	\$4,463.09

B. On separate document, please attach attendee list

C. Please include up to 6 images as attachments to your email submission







