

Gin Stone

Statement of Plans

The following project was begun in 2022, with the initial installation of phase one, The Birth of Commodity, completed and installed in May of 2023. 2024 has been a year dedicated to creating physical prototypes for the final installment in late 2025/early 2026.

General Overview

Commodity

An allegorical art installation employing life-size, and larger than life sized, animals within a minimum 400 square foot gallery space for each, which from here out will be referred to as the dioramas, that explores the environmental consequences of patriarchal-driven capitalism in human evolution. The unfolding artwork advances its timeline with each consecutive install location it occupies, the results of which are an evolving narrative. In three acts, the project creates a metaphor for the exploitation of living beings, the environment, and ultimately, the planet.

Phase One Installation Description

Birth of Commodity

The prominently featured central figure of this diorama is a horse whose skin (*torn and hand-stained muslin fabric*) is adorned with the patterns of lichen and mosses, while different body parts were created from found wood (*mane and tail*) and recovered lead (*hooves*), materials representing the natural resources of the planet in situ prior to human interference. The horse figure is surrounded by reeds where a male baboon lurks, he represents mankind. This tooth (*handmade from lead*) baring baboon has clutched in his hand (*hands and feet sculpted from polymer clay*) a bone, a visual interpretation of tool/weapon use. His ravenous and angry gaze is focused on the horse (who is the embodiment of the whole of nature). Horses also represent freedom and beauty which we have broken and restrained into servitude.

All animals in the diorama are covered with torn muslin and employ a method of adornment through the application of dyed ghost gear netting, to represent natural growth in the environment. The horse being covered in lichen and moss while the patterns on the baboon harken to an almost synthetic or mechanical look.

Audio accompaniment: Playback of spring peepers at half speed. Alludes to the slow process nature normally takes evolutionally.

Lighting: Natural light was used when available, but the best images were recorded at night with specialized lighting employed.

Phase One Timeline: COMPLETED May 2023 – Final location for installation and

public talk was the historic Hawthorne Barn in Provincetown, MA in conjunction with the art incubator/nonprofit Twenty Summers.

Phase Two Description

Out of Balance This phase is currently being experienced by all life on this planet. A video of this phase will be created and presented online. This mimics the way humanity is currently experiencing the environment. Factory farming and over-consumption will be the main sequence explored in the video. We are truly out of balance and out of touch with the natural order.

Phase Two Timeline: It will take only about a month to complete work on this phase. When completed a link will appear on my website taking viewers to the page playing the video and ask the question of 'How do you feel about this?' and 'How can you make a change?'. I will leave a feedback area for commenters and display the viewers opinions below the video.

Phase Three Description

ACE (abbreviated from 'after current era')

Working with the imagined concept of a world having fallen to greed and power that are behind the commodification and exploitation of nature, fungi begin to swallow us whole within this immersive diorama space. The visual substitution for this concept is a space filled with colossal split gill mushrooms. An unnatural version of decay, created using discarded clothing, canvas and marine ghost gear netting as the mycelium connecting the collective consciousness of this lifeform.

As visitors enter the space, they are just below eye level with the mycelium (*created from dredged, by chance, ghost netting recovered off the floor of the Atlantic Ocean floor in 600 feet of water*). This artificial neural network for the fungi is created from our own abandoned destructive force in marine ecosystems. The mycelium are just below, and trailing from, the huge (*cloth*) splitgill mushrooms, which run at 6-10 feet from ground level.

The human relation to the mushroom's growth is visually represented by the fungi's gills, colored by hues of the garments (*strips of recycled clothing*) of humanity past. Highest on the walls within the space, one sees colossal pale white (*canvas*) moths. The moths fly free having transformed from the living human (*birth of commodity*), through gross upheaval in the pupal stage (*out of balance*) and now exist only as a free soul (*ace*) having finally transcended the greed and subjugation which was forced upon the surroundings.

The use of recycled clothing subtly implies that humans serve as the sustenance for what follows our time on earth and allowing for the flourishing of natural life on a monumental scale.

Humans are no longer a part of this landscape, and the nature that emerges has not been constrained to fit into our world, but rather we feed it.

Timeline: Installation for 2026

Audio accompaniment: Audio will play within the space, a drone of engineered and layered sounds. Composed mainly of wind howling but augmented into an ethereal, other worldly hum.

Obstacles: Installation location is TBD.

My goal is to install in an art museum, such as PAAM, MASSMoCA, or the ICA.

Backup for Obstacles, Solutions: 1. Rental of a gallery or installation space. Gallery 444 in Provincetown is one example. 2. Installation during an artist residency such as Wassaic Project or Marble House 3. Installation in gallery of educational institution such as the contemporary art museum at *MIT*, the *List* Visual Arts Center.