



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

October 18, 2021

Dear Professor Nowicki and Doctoral Committee.

I was asked to serve as an external reviewer for Walter Rindone who is a doctoral candidate at the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design. I reviewed all of the materials that were presented to me, including a written thesis and examples of creative works for the project entitled, *The Imprinted and Reprinted Image*, as well as Walter's publication on anastatic printmaking that is instructive on the process and history.

In my professional opinion, a doctoral degree should be awarded to Walter Rindone. The art works are sophisticated and ambitious in terms of scale and complexity. Moreover, there has been significant involvement and research that has been undertaken in association with this project. The process of anastatic printing that has been developed and perfected offers new research and insights to the field of printmaking. Walter Rindone has undertaken significant art historical research, technical research and experimentation to realize these works. I found the works to be evocative technically, conceptually and aesthetically.

In the sections below, I will address three areas: pedagogy, professional achievements and the creative work as represented in the thesis. My assessment is based upon my interpretation of the materials that were presented to me. Much of my assessment qualitatively is based upon the opinion submitted by Professor Christopher Nowicki. I have visited the Eugeniusz Academy twice, 2016 and 2019. During these visits I gave an artist lecture, conducted workshops in book binding and served as an outside reviewer for the Graphics and Printmaking programs at the Academy. I am impressed by the high standards and fine work that the programs produce. Christopher Nowicki has been a visiting artist at Ball State University. He instructed my students in Mezzotint printmaking and is in my opinion a master printmaker and an exemplary professor.

Teaching

As a printmaking professor who has been teaching in person since Fall of 2020, I know how hard it is to teach involved processes such as serigraphy printmaking. Walter taught the concepts and processes to students who were undoubtedly masked. This poses a problem because it can be hard to read expressions as well as hear questions. Printmaking requires many steps and practice to become proficient. Professor Nowicki states that Walter handled

the situation in a professional manner and was an effective teacher. The students at the academy were able to move forward with their study of printmaking thanks to Walter's dedication.

The Publication that Walter created, The Re-printed Image, is notable and attests to his effectiveness in teaching, as it demystifies and explains the process of anastatic printing both historically and in a step-by-step way. This is not an easy technique, especially when confronting the issue of scale as Walter effectively does.

Creative work:

I concur with Professor Nowicki's opinion that Walter Rindone is a master of the the anastatic print. The scale and complexity of the works are indeed impressive. I have undertaken this process and can attest that it is difficult to produce a high-quality image, even on a small scale. The scale that Walter works in requires technical virtuosity and precision. Examining them in the photographs as closely as possible reveals images that are borrowed from various sources throughout time. He juxtaposes formal and informal, intellectual and quotidian, as well as hand drawn, and photo based. The works reference the writings of Baudrillard, (Simulacra & Simulation) as well as fictional, biblical and well-known historical people. The works pose many questions and are often bleak in outlook. That may be an interpretation, but Walter directly questions the implications of human activities and the impact of human actions on the planet. His writing effectively expresses the themes of the work. One phrase that was particularly poignant was the following:

"Now more than ever, it is clear how progress-for the better or worse-affects not only the environment, but also our health, our mind and soul, redefining what it means to be human."

The tragedy of the worldwide pandemic is directly confronted and reflected upon. This is notable because it widens the scope of interpretation and brings a contemporary stance and significance. Walter's work is grand in scale and ambitious in theme. He has mastered the technique of anastatic printmaking and has made conceptually demanding and evocative works of art. I hope that he will get the opportunity to bring these works to the attention of the art world. He deserves recognition for this work. I am certain that this work would be of interest to members of regional and international printmaking organizations in the United States such as Southern Graphics International.

Creative work: Exhibitions and Publication

This section of the thesis materials offers a list of achievements and certificates of participation and well documents Walter Rindone's professional accomplishments. There are an impressive number of collective (group) and solo (individual) exhibitions. Typically, an artist's accomplishments are judged by their significant exhibitions. Walter's solo exhibition *Shadows over Babylon* was reviewed, a fact that signifies that it garnered attention. As an emerging artist, Walter is living and working during a world-wide pandemic that has presented major

career challenges. Nevertheless, he has an impressive record in terms of exhibitions, especially since many venues were forced to cancel lectures and public activities. I had an exhibition planned in Chicago that was cancelled. This kind of career set-back can be hard to recover from. It takes determination and creativity to continue building credentials and reconfiguring a studio practice under adverse conditions. I believe that Walter will get a chance to bring his work to the attention of art professionals once the pandemic is truly under control.

The publication, The Re-Printed Image, explains and illustrates the techniques of Anastatic printing. This is a great source of information for artists interested in this process. The pages I reviewed showed clear illustrations and de-mystified this fascinating technique. I did not know that Edgar Allen Poe was interested in the technique. This lends a literary and historical importance to the research and work that Walter has done.

In conclusion, I am impressed with Walter Rindone's creative work and credentials and I have no reservations in recommending that you award him the title of Doctor of Fine Arts from the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wroclaw.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further elaboration or information.

Sincerely,



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USA