ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ROD BUXTON PRESENTS DIGITAL WATERCOLORS AT CAMPUS EXHIBIT

In October of 2016 Associate Professor Rod Buxton opened his exhibit of digital paintings at the University of Denver. The exhibit, titled Neo-Nostalgic Images of U.S. National Parks (Part I), was open at The Gallery on campus from October 7 through November 9.

The exhibit was a culmination of almost 9 years of work. Dr. Buxton first became interested in the project when the National Parks Conservation Association approached the MFJS department about an internship opportunity for students. The growing controversy related to oil and natural gas drilling and development in national parks at the time inspired him to recall his own family trips through the parks.

The pieces are created by a combination of photography and Photoshop known as digital giclee watercolor. Dr. Buxton explores national parks, takes photographs and harnesses the creative tools offered by the program to visually represent his emotional experience of being in the parks.

This process results in artwork that looks almost like the original photograph, only more enhanced and three-dimensional, somewhat akin to the dreamlike Technicolor world in The Wizard of Oz (1939).

Dr. Buxton describes this genre of artistic creation as neo-nostalgia:

"Conventionally, when one evokes the concept of nostalgia, it is a retrograde longing and romanticism for objects, values and attitudes of many decades or even centuries long past. Visually, images of these objects, values and experiences tend to be rendered in sepia and muted color tones. . . . For me, neo-nostalgia is the recognition of the fleeting present, steeped in vibrant, almost hallucinogenic saturated visual tones that I present in these digital watercolors. This approach enhances the inherent drama of nature's monuments, in both perseverance and uncertainty."
The exhibit opening was attended by Dr. Buxton's friends, family, students, colleagues, and art lovers alike. The exhibit itself ran for a month and was well-received during its time in the Driscoll Student Center's gallery.

In Dr. Buxton's own words: "These pieces are my responses to the awe of nature's beauty, fears about the destruction of that beauty, and the hope that this destruction from outside human forces can be stopped and reversed in some manner."

At a time when the future of national parks is at even greater risk from human forces than it was 9 years ago, Dr. Buxton's work becomes more relevant every day. Hopefully we won't have to wait too long to celebrate Part II.

Find out more about Rod Buxton and his work at [http://www.onandofftheroadcreativephotography.com/](http://www.onandofftheroadcreativephotography.com/)