

Connected

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People often think of art and science as two completely different disciplines. In fact, contemporary art often looks to science for inspiration. Art is part science because many observations used by artists are created with science. Without science there would not be any buildings, power lines, or even cars, and without art there would be no appreciation for everyday things. Science is in everyday art and you can find some examples at the Southeastern Louisiana Center for Contemporary Art, in "Constructed Realities: The Influence of Science and Engineering in Contemporary American Art." In her painting *Cherry Pink Narcosis Underground City*, Dannielle Tegedars portrays the relationship mankind has with nature and technology.

The combination of the rich colors and the strategically placed shapes of the work are crisp and clean. The painting stands about four feet tall and five feet wide. The many geometric forms of the painting include: circles, lines, triangles, squares and rectangles that all connect together like the streets of the city. All of the forms seem to follow a road that travels up, down, left and right. Along the path there are little eruptions and clusters of circles or triangles. The colors are very vibrant; there are lots of reds, oranges, pinks, violets, purples and maroons. There are also sprinkles of black, khaki, cream, peach, and grey. The system of the geometric forms seems to have a purpose and, even with the little eruptions, continues going.

Cherry Pink Narcosis Underground City has a movement of its own. The energy coming from all of the turns and comers of the painting feel as though they will not stop. To say that it has a dark mood to it may be too strong a description, but it is obvious that the painting is not

from a perfect world. In *Cherry Pink Narcosis Underground City*, the combination of colors and geometric shapes catches the viewer's eye immediately. The massive size of the painting and the deep rich colors overpower any piece near it. The background of the painting is red and captivating. It is beautiful in its own right for the way it was painted and for what it stands for. I would love to own a painting like this because of the experience and the thought that goes into observing a painting like this.

Cherry Pink Narcosis Underground City reminds the viewer of the relationship humans have with Science. Science can be thought of the huge bridge that we drive over on the way to work; it is the way the roads in the city all connect and it is a fifty-six story hotel. Because of science we have made huge leaps in technology, but in some ways there have been consequences, also. We rely heavily on science: without it there would be chaos. Art can be a way of expressing the good, the bad, and the many advances of science and engineering. According to Dannielle Tegedars, "[Her] neatly executed designs are often interrupted by a mishap. A cloud of smoke erupting on an escape route, a tiny explosion occurs in the midst of a vast network." Because everything is so advanced and things are so closely connected in society, one malfunction can disrupt everything. The painting reflects how there are problems in society and in the cities. For example, the line in the painting will be nice and straight, then, as if out of nowhere, a little eruption of smoke will appear. After the little smoke cloud the line will continue on with its circles or squares. It also demonstrates that even though the roads look perfect one does not know the chaos that goes on underneath.

This is a painting that uses shapes to represent the life we live and how closely connected we are. It is just one way of showing how art can pose questions we have about nature and the cities we live in. Science is always evolving and changing. Every day, new theories are formed,

and new conclusions are made. Also, art can express ideas, beliefs, and different viewpoints.

What is so amazing is that even though art and science can be completely different, they can also combine beautifully to form paintings. Without one we would not have the other, and *Cherry Pink Narcosis* is one example of that.

Ms. Acosta's Comments: *Taylor analyzed a highly abstract piece of art. Not only was I impressed with the clear writing, but I was impressed with her ability to make the abstract so wholly tangible and applicable to our contemporary world - the seamless fusion of civilization and technology.*

