

An abstract painting featuring a small, white house with a green roof and a yellow flag, positioned on a thin red horizon line. The background is a mix of blue, green, and white, suggesting a sky or water. The foreground is a dark, textured blue and purple. The overall style is expressive and painterly.

global cooling

FINAL DRAFT



Artist's Statement

- 1 Relics of a Failed Revolution
- 2 Assault Upon Place
- 3 Rolling and Tumbling
- 4 Citymachine
- 5 *Global Cooling*

Epilogue



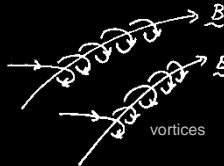
Global *Cooling* is the story of what might happen after global warming. The story begins before the present, when revolutions failed. Breakdowns occurred.

Relics of these failed revolutions litter our landscape, like so much uncollected trash. During global warming, ideas, lifestyles, whole cultures thudded into the ground. Huge piles of stuff lay around for years slowly rusting, collecting dirt, stains.

After all this happened, the void left behind was quickly filled by a voracious vortex of material. The energy that powered this vortex was fueled by a mysterious viscous fluid...oil.

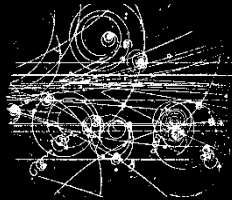
This vortex accelerated its speed, accelerating our pace of society. *Our* acceleration inevitably meant *their* deceleration...thus Assault Upon Place, a study of the opposite side of this equation.

Rural southeast Asia, once a delicately beautiful balance between Man and Nature, became a sink, the heart of darkness, so that the Asian factories could meet the demands of western scientific society.



$$p/\rho + \frac{1}{2} v^2 + gz = k$$

Our world was hurricaned by this mad vortex. The interior land mass of western civilization became vast open space, dotted by small clumps of settlements. This vortex ripped a path, rolling and tumbling everything, as nature rebalanced the world set off balance by man.



Warmearth environments are violent and chaotic, unable to be predicted, causing people to retreat further into technology for survival.

Great wateredge cities were inundated by flooding. Machines sustained the cities, which in turn sustained man.

To sustain humanity, great cities were built on the edges of water. The countryside was abandoned for these cities.

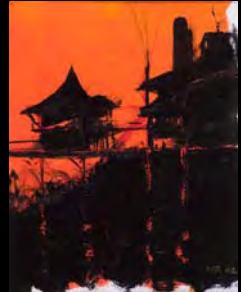
City-machines of terrifying scale aquaticized, lost in the deeps for a long time. Warmearth remained.

Temperatures rose.
Waters rose.

People were desperate to claim some kind of high ground.



Looking back, during global warming...the oil ran out a long time ago; the space left over in the earth's mantle slowly collapsed as the heat-storing oil was brought forth into the atmosphere. Oil rigs have now become the only possible lifestyle, as the wateredge moves around and the interior is wasted. Then, the only thing to fear is...global cooling.



Cooling then leads to glaciation.
And the cycle goes on.

-Richard Reep
Winter Park, Florida 2007

1 – Relics of a Failed Revolution

A series of 11 small architecturally inspired structures. Although the story of Global Cooling is a series of sequential events, one comes upon Relics at various points in time throughout the storyline.

2 – Assault Upon Place – A body of work from the late 1990's when western society seemed to be accelerating in speed. Where much of our material was manufactured, Southeast Asia, the inverse to our accelerated prosperity seemed to be occurring. Thus the fascination with the loss of the primitive hut.

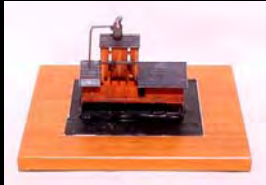
3 – Rolling and Tumbling - some, literally, inspired by hurricanes! All a depiction of restlessness, of change, of being in the midst of tumult, of rolling and tumbling through a vortex of weather, culture, technology, thought, and spirit.



4 – Citymachine – In warmearth times, great wateredge cities required massively complex machines to sustain their existence. The inevitable takeover of the machine meant that the city became an infrastructure component to the machine.

6 – Global Cooling. Life in the wateredge citymachines was no longer viable. Oil rigs, long abandoned after the wells dried up, became attractive for their durability and adaptability to violent weather swings. And thus was born a new lifestyle on the rigs.

1 - Relics of a Failed Revolution



The abandoned sawmill, another relic. Government House, empty and hollow.

Useless maps, now only good as paper for drawings of other empty and hollow architecture.

Revolutions failed.
Breakdowns occurred.
Nature, including Man's nature, proved to be stronger than the force of rational thought.

Eastern spirit houses were imported into western scientific society.
The waterfront area of a lost culture, neither east nor west, finds these forces of nature especially brutal.

Why the waterfront zone?



Southeast Asia: Man and nature in a special relationship unlike any other in the world, where the lifestyle is about the village, not the city. Families live in delicately beautiful houses perched on poles over the forest floor.

The Banua, or village, connects to spirit energy in the middle, spread out to the four compass points like a star, expressing the villagers' sense of place within the cosmos.

The vortex that swept society in the West also swept clean these villages of people, as they left for the city.



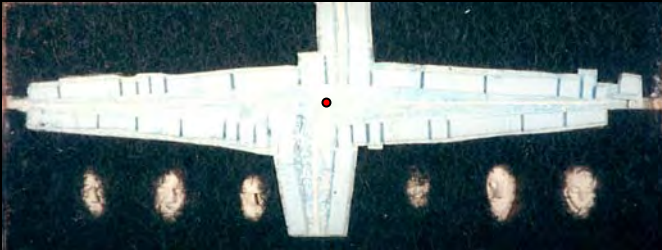
2 - *Assault Upon Place*

In the city, there were jobs to make things for Westerners: jeans, microchips. Whole villages were abandoned and left to the elements. Intimate relationships were abandoned in favor of the anonymity of world urbanity.



The vortex sweeping the world had long-term consequences.

This assault upon the Asian sense of place was the first evidence of this change.





Rolling and Tumbling

Global warming begets
Volatility and Unpredictability.

Where is the certainty of the
past?

Nostalgic for a blue sky, long a
memory...

The vortex sweeps across land
and sea, blotting out
details. Perception of your
environment is reduced to
silhouettes. You just don't
have the time or ability to
take in nuances.



Rolling and Tumbling



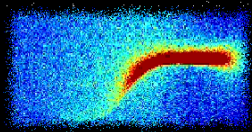
Material tumbled through the vortex, swirling things into a mess and creating a new order, the beauty of continuous chaos.

Just as weather-hurricanes slammed trees through trailers, culture-hurricanes slammed truth through heads and slashed technology through lives. Economic hurricanes slammed tragedy and uncertainty through random classes of people.

Insight into the situation sometimes could only be gained from 30,000 feet as if one sails serenely over the earth in a jet. There is time to think, to ponder, to seek understanding.

A terrible grief could envelop one; a sense of loss over things that were and are not now. What we valued so dearly hours ago has been taken down in a brief cataclysm.

Vortex destruction and re-creation seemed to follow no particular trajectory until seen from this perspective.





9



Citymachine

Settlements were no longer about mass; they were about energy conduits, synapses, machines, connectors, fractals, strings, webs, chains.

Energy lines, diffraction gratings, crown chakras became the walls, floors, and ceilings of our environment.

What we see, the interior and exterior surfaces, were merely thin membranes applied.



global cooling

Mass became an archaic concept; a memory; a collector's item. Mass could be mounted on the wall for display. In warm times, wateredge cities of wires and membranes became decorated with small deposits of mass, like jewelry.





Brettner A (work in progress)

Machinists are the high priests of the warmearth citymachine. Submerged, and re-emerged from the ocean, buildings and layers re-organized themselves, sometimes reinhabited sideways, sometimes upside down.

Technology on a massive scale was required to sustain man. Natural forces were no longer allies, no longer to be trusted, but rather to be fought against, protected from, and tricked into temporary compliance.

The inhabitants of these warmearth citymachines constantly practiced aquatic disaster response drills; were ready at a moment's notice to live in the air or the water, and relied on the machinist's ability to repair the damaged mechanisms.



Wickloe

Technology overcame the city.

Wateredge cities filter their fluids through great diffraction gratings. High and dry settlements were suddenly submerged, then arose from the depths, dried out like clothes on a clothesline, and then reinhabited.

Hydrometry became an obsession. The measurement of the water level was a part of the weather report.

Eventually the vortex returned, and the city was resubmerged. Xeriscaped vistas always ended in aquatic wires.



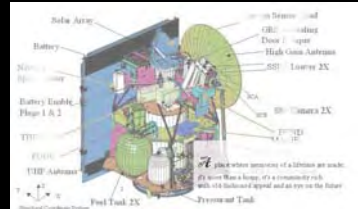
Eventually, something had to give. The inhabitants of these citymachines abandoned the edge conditions of warmearth, and seek shelter in the open ocean.

The now-ancient patternbooks of oil rigs are celebrated, and the new urbanism of this lifestyle is popular during warmearth.

Indeed, these are the ultimate citymachines, capable of withstanding vortices of all types; isolated, standing above the surface of the sea, triumphant technological oases of the new traditional town.



As usual, scientific society is one step behind: as the boom in new traditional towns ascends, the warmearth conditions are threatened by a new force: global cooling.





Brittanical Citymachine (work in progress)

Global Cooling

Indeed, these are the ultimate citymachines, capable of withstanding vortices of all types; isolated, standing above the surface of the sea, triumphant technological oases of the new traditional town.

Living platforms thrive as centers of civilization: The new reality of condensed space, converting the hollow support legs into dwellings, like the hives of bees so long ago lost to forces of nature.

Life topside is still unpredictable. Each platform now proudly boasts its own culture, reflected in
Language dialects;
Platform founding mythology and the place-name associated with it;
Traditions of hospitality and reception of visitors;
Political organization;
Art and music.

Global Cooling



Heldrun 2

Platform life in warmearth is hard in the equatorial latitudes; frequent devastating hurricanes, intense heat, and oceanic dead zones tend to breed a fierce culture not unlike that of the early Polynesians and Caribes that inhabited this zone previous to western scientific society.

Platform life in the northern latitudes preserves a slightly higher fraction of western culture before warmearth. Hurricanes are less frequent in the North Sea, ocean life is more plentiful and a symbiotic relationship is established between the platform fauna and surroundings.

Global Cooling

Platforms are divided into a caste system, as follows:

Topside (above the water): Politico-religious leaders, medical professionals, and machinists

Legs (below the waterline): Everyone else, including farmers, fishermen, craftsmen, workers, artists, and vast classes of laborers. Platforms with living quarters have the highest ranking leaders. Only perhaps one in three platforms have these living quarters; these become the kingdoms under which the other platforms operate as a loose network. Living quarters are reserved for the priest-king, his family, and his cabinet.



Tollen A



Speltfjord A

Global Cooling

Above the highest level, a large flat open platform (formerly a helipad) is used for gathering of the Topside dwellers for religious and political events, such as transference of power to a new priest-king. Ascending to this level by invitation only is a particularly restricted activity .

Nearly every platform has a very high, angular arm which bled off natural gas to regulate pressure. At the top of this arm, sometimes over a hundred meters above the ocean's surface, scientist-priests take astronomical observations and perform intimate-scale religious acts, accompanied by a flare. Ascent to this level is even more restricted.

Various topside zones for machinists (who were necessary to maintain the structure and its systems), doctors and medical professionals, and a very few other high-ranking professionals are adapted from the refineries, storage tanks, and other remnants of the platforms.

Crammed into the limited open space are markets. Ships coming and going supply these markets, and farmers from below are allowed to ascend to supply them.

The hollow legs supporting the platform became the dwelling areas for high-density ocean dwellers. These are zoned according to their distance from the surface of the ocean.



Fareg

18



Kvitebjorn

Topmost leg dwellers are the professional class: teachers, engineers.

These inhabitants are needed by the topside dwellers and are occasionally permitted to go topside for specific activities.

Next dwellers below are the craftsmen and service workers. Their jobs include system repair and maintenance, services to the upper level dwellers, and commerce.



Veslefikl

Global Cooling

Below the service industry is a large column section devoted to food production. Inhabitants were called "farmers", an ironic reference to land-based agrarian life.

Farmers live entirely within the hollow concrete column, with hydroponic farms growing produce, small animal livestock, and various domesticated sea life.

Farmers use valves in the concrete legs to access the ocean as necessary to harvest wild fish and seaweed stock for their farms.



Praudner

The lowest category of inhabitants processes the waste from the entire platform and runs the reverse-osmosis plant to provide fresh water.

Bottom-dwellers bred for this life have evolved into albinos in a few generations, are rarely allowed topside, and are shunned by upper-dwellers.

Regular visitations from the engineers up column inspire fear and resentment.

But nothing is feared more than global cooling.

Artwork Featured in this Story

Cover – Global Cooling (acrylic on canvas)

Page 1 – Gasoline Used to Cost 2 baht per Litre

Page 2 – Abandoned Ancestor Temples, Preah Koh (pen and ink sketch); Silent Heat (acrylic on paper)

Page 4 – Spirit House 102; Houseboats (sketch), Spirit House 106; Abandoned Sawmill

Page 5 – Western Object with Regional Influence 1, Memory; Banua; Chinese Laundry (sketch)

Page 6 – Distrubed Earth Silhouette (acrylic on paper); Earthworks Section (oil on canvas);

Page 7 – Charles; Frances.

Page 8 – Window on Window.

Page 9 – Unravelment; Ancient Wall; City of Time; Berkeley Math Building (sketch).

Page 10 – Mass with Chicken Coop; Mass with Silver

Tower; Mass with Aircraft; Angkor Wat North Portal (sketch); Bakong (sketch).

Page 11 – Brettner A (work in progress)

Page 12 – Wickloe (work in progress)

Page 13 – Brittanik (work in progress)

Page 15 – Heidrun 2 (acrylic on canvas)

Page 16 – Tollen A (acrylic on canvas)

Page 17 – Speltfjord A (acrylic on masonite)

Credits

Table of Contents – Troll A3

Page 1 – Daniel Bernoulli; Bernoulli's Equation; flow tank vortices

Page 2 – bubble chamber (particle physics image)

Page 3 – Sleipner A

Page 7 – Galaxy/Hurricane diagram

Page 8 – Spiral for Web (space image)

Page 12 – Hale Bopp Vortice (space image)

Page 14 – Marco Polo transportation; Marco Polo in situ; PSR with advertising copy from Celebration, FL; Electric Star (space image)

Epilogue – Coastal Florida Wetlands

Photography Credits –

Randall Smith: Assault Upon Place, Global Cooling

The present is Global Warming.
The future is Global Cooling.

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"The highest job of an artist is to make his strongest visions convincing to