

Mural Proposal by
Saul Villegas
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University of California, Santa Cruz



Naturalist's Perspective Nature Scene

Thimanns Large Wall next to "Pathways" relief mural

220 IN x 118 IN

Acrylic 2020



Thimanns Seal Court. Staircase wall
180 IN X 138 IN
Acrylic 2020



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Art Portfolio: <https://www.modernobysaulvillegas.com/>

Mural Art Project: The Norris Center Archives

Abstract

Introducing the murals of the specimen collection from the Kenneth S. Norris Center for Natural History to the UCSC campus in an artistic way channels creativity through themes in Art and Natural Science. *The Norris Center Archives* M.U.R.A.L project centers around highlighting specimens in a visually stimulating way. Using the principles and elements of design, the subjects will be painted on the concrete walls in an exciting contemporary style. In producing this work, the intersectionality of these subjects aimed for students in all majors can be beneficial to the university, its libraries, and collections. Encouraging experimental academic growth and discovery, propelling the arts and sciences as a collective.

Working with the natural sciences on campus has allowed me to bridge understanding outside of my scope in the art department. It is my pleasure to be able to present an idea that would be beneficial to other students, as reaching outside of my own department has allowed me to grow academically and become more acquainted with the university. I seek to provide that for other students by engaging in the philanthropic project for M.U.R.A.L. Having done murals for my local town in Hanford, CA in a historic area of the city has enabled me to understand the archival process in the longevity of the contextualized imagery as well as long-standing artwork meant for viewing under various weather conditions.

Balancing of the budget will be determined by the amount of supplies needed to begin the restoration of cleaning and preparing the concrete walls for painting application. The painted objects although connected through design are not all filled to cover the wall. The color of the concrete is incorporated into the design to preserve the architectural design and enhance the building. Upon agreement with the committee and approval, the design work can be further discussed and the timeline for completion as well as breakdown of materials used for the budget will be allocated.

I also seek an opportunity to discuss with the Division of Physical and Biological Sciences (PBSci) to implement a more detailed design and discuss the parameters of extending the design work for the courtyard where another design shall be conceived for specific purposes that will relate to the Earth and Marine Sciences.

Viewing the empty shell of concrete and the surrounding beauty of the environment at the university, I am confident that with the proper funding and collaboration with PBSci—that this design mural will function as both artistic and intellectual to be a constant reminder of the amazing wonder and significance of the specimens studied.

It would be my pleasure to be able to work with the University of California, Santa Cruz to provide an artistic experience to those students who study science and vice versa. Being an artist with a variety of skills and determination to leave an important legacy for others for the future of the university.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Saul Villegas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "V".

Saul Villegas

Procedure

- ❖ Dust/Brush clean the wall in the areas with more mold to reveal the wall color and texture
- ❖ Use natural cleaner (baking soda, vinegar, water) for the removal of mold and stain
- ❖ Prep the wall with ink sketches for the background foliage
- ❖ A grid of 24 tiles (W 36.6 x L 27.5) inches each will be placed to mark the locations of the design for the purpose of transferring the large scale sketch to the wall.
- ❖ Paint large area cloud in background
- ❖ Apply ink and acrylic paint in different layers to create dimensional qualities with opacities that vary
- ❖ Fill in opaque areas of the shadow where insects and animals cast them on the wall
- ❖ Continue to add atmospheric elements to create a Naturalist's perspective Nature Scene

Example of Archival restoration: [Carousel Restoration Project](#)

Example of Digital Artistry and Photography for Design: [The Norris Center Archives](#)

Example of Artwork execute on challenging textures (gravel): [Via Arté BMOA](#)

Example of Artwork for preliminary design and development of projects: [Proposals](#)



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