

Bob Morouney Artist Statement

Neil Evernden observes in *The Natural Alien*: “If what we are is entailed in the story we create for ourselves, then only a new story will alter us and our actions . . . [I]f we can sidestep the protective barriers of common sense, there is the possibility that we can become fertile ground for a new start, a new story, and a redefining of our place in the world.”¹

My work arises out of and is informed by my studies in phenomenology and eco-philosophy. Our day-to-day life is mediated by unquestioned assumptions and unexamined presuppositions which in turn shape our interaction with our environment and each other. My artistic practice is to present contrasting understandings, not as arguments or explanations but encouragements toward insight into the limits of perception imposed by culture. Looking beyond the received wisdom of culture reveals a strange and paradoxical world where we may develop a new wisdom about “the way the world is.”

The etchings of *pandemonium diary* are visual metaphors. Buildings, as metonym, are the focus of chimerical juxtapositions wherein the disparate elements are reconciled only through insight. The images are narrative moments. The stories glimpsed are full of agency and refute the “common sense” that veils unquestioned assumptions. In all images the stories are simple and offer a choice of interpretations, wherein lies their power to encourage a fresh look at the familiar.

The exhibition *pandemonium diary* will consist of approximately 50 copperplate etchings. There are two sizes of etched images, 10 x 10 cm and 12 x 9 cm. A wall-mounted exhibition, *pandemonium diary* has no special display requirements

¹ Neil Evernden, *The Natural Alien* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1993) p.141