



*“Balance” 24" x 48" Acrylic polymer emulsion on masonite © 1998. Private collection.*

***“We are in danger of destroying ourselves by our greed and stupidity. We cannot remain looking inwards at ourselves on a small and increasingly polluted and overcrowded planet”***

*Stephen Hawking*

Dr. Martin Siegert, Professor of Geosciences in the department of Earth Sciences and Engineering, Imperial College London, has postulated that the current atmospheric conditions of Earth are much like the Pliocene epoch which spanned from 5.3 to 2.6 million years ago. Sedimentary records and plant fossils recently found in Antarctica near the South Pole revealed evidence that the temperatures then were 20C higher than today and global sea levels were 15 to 20 metres higher. Volcanism is the most popular theory which caused the rise in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere at that time which matches the same levels of greenhouse gasses currently measured in our atmosphere today. The global temperature in the Pliocene epoch has been calculated to be about 3 to 4 degrees Celsius warmer and since the industrial revolution, the global temperature of Earth has already risen by 1 degree Celsius.

***“If you put your oven on at home and set it to 200C the temperature does not get to that immediately, it takes a bit of time, and it is the same with climate,” Siegert said, at a Royal Meteorological Society meeting on the climate of the Pliocene.***

*Dr. Martin Siegert*

The technology to end our addiction to fossil fuels has already been developed. The most frustrating hurdle to overcome to continue the development of this technology and implementing it as a global energy alternative is one nasty culprit...money. Imagine the cost to replace the combustible engines of ships, trains and air planes never mind automobiles and fit them with electric motors. There are also the industrial and textile sectors along with steel and aluminum manufacturing. No doubt, it is a most insurmountable conundrum!

Radical change stems from breaking away from the familiar and the comfort of convenience. Like any addiction that does harm to the body, the fear of withdrawal prevents us from taking action to cease the rituals that led to that addiction. After thousands of years of rule; money and greed have been responsible for wars, causing global poverty, ruining what remains of the Earth's natural resources and atmosphere as well squelching cultural and scientific innovation. The only reason why Money can do good in these areas is because without it; everything falls apart. Everything has a price!

***“Fossil fuels are merely a part of the “natural capital” which we steadfastly insist on treating as expendable, as if it were income, and by no means the most important part. If we squander our fossil fuels, we threaten civilisation; but if we squander the capital represented by living nature around us, we threaten life itself.”***

*E.F. Schumacher*

Cataclysmic weather events are becoming the new normal within the past decade. There have been massive natural disasters in the past however recently the frequency of these events are very concerning to me. Incredibly strong cyclones and hurricanes, massive tide surges flooding and heatwaves causing extended droughts leading to record breaking numbers of global wildfires all of which kills thousands of people and decimates wildlife and the environment costing billions of dollars annually.

Everyone should question the dividends from our fossil fuel addiction. How much longer can we put profit ahead of survival? It is that serious! We should all be more afraid of human ignorance than revolutionizing global commerce. The most important leap in human evolution!

***“Already, there is overwhelming evidence that the great self-balancing system of nature is becoming increasingly unbalanced in particular respects and at specific points.”***

*E.F. Schumacher*