



Kathy Weaver

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Artist Statement – Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago An Overview

My work addresses aspects of the intersection between technology and art. The subject matter of my narrative fiber pieces and drawings are often robots and their predicaments. In my art the robot represents the tremendous scientific and technological changes in which we are currently involved.

The robot acts as a commentator on the status quo, whether that is about the wars we are waging or the health of the environment. After exhibiting and attending a world gathering of scientists working in the field of informatics and robotics (ALIFE X, Bloomington, IN., July 2006), I became more interested in the engineering of working robots used in scientific pursuits. In particular, I was curious about the integration of robotic devices and human beings.

This art work is the result of a request I made to the Robotics Department at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC). Would it be possible for me to draw the state of the art robots they are developing to help patients with traumatic injury and could I record, in drawing form, the lab and its machinery?

I have long been appalled by the loss of life and limb because of weaponry and war. It seemed to me, as a layman, that incredible strides were being made for the traumatic injury patient. RIC is in the forefront of these developments. Their stated vision is “To advance human ability through science and research.”¹

My project with RIC includes drawings done at the Robotics Lab and at the Biomechanics Development Lab. As this project proceeds, with permission of patient and staff, the art will include people as well.

The project delves into both the advancing science involved in rehabilitation of patients with traumatic injuries, the patients who benefit from this work and the staff at RIC.

¹ ¹ *Mission and Vision*, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, retrieved on December 13, 2010, from <http://www.ric.org/aboutus/mission/index.aspx>