

# Blanchette

## Bruce's Studio News

Process • Concept • Evolution • Solution

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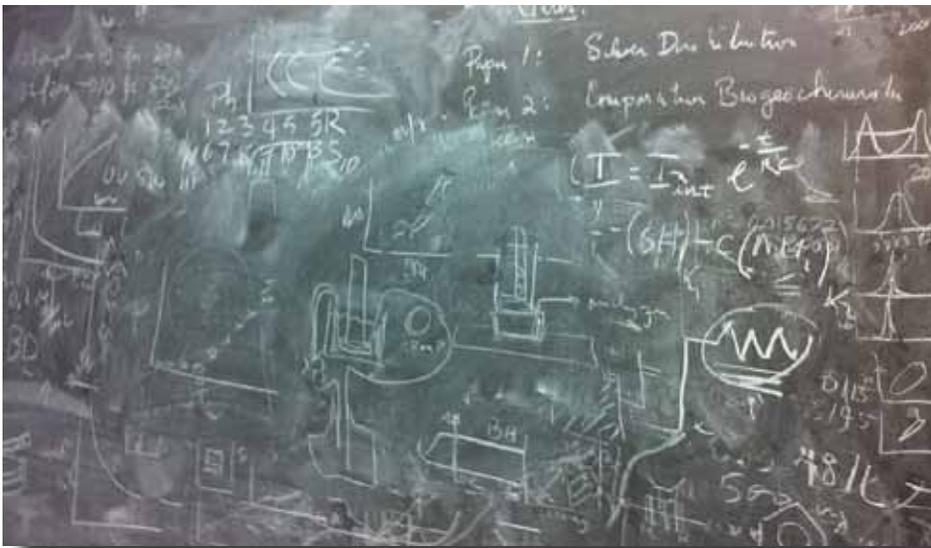
### A Calligraphy of Art & Science...

Only a week ago I participated in a Memorial Bench Dedication for Gordon T. Wallace, Jr., PhD., a lifetime friend who tragically died prematurely in 2010. His passing affected me deeply. I read my poem "Knowing", written on the day he died, as a personal eulogy for a friend.

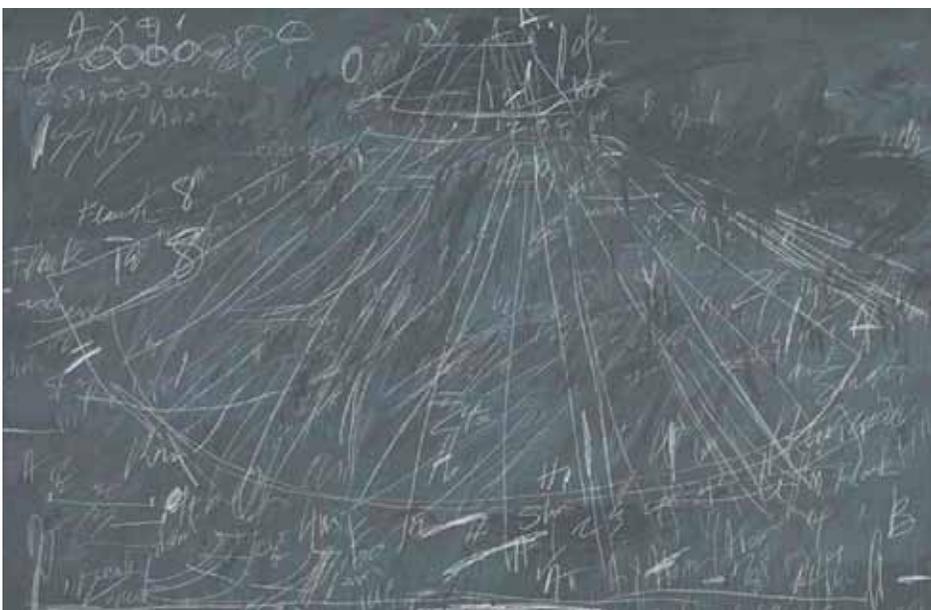
Gordon was a founding faculty member of the Environmental Sciences Program at UMass, Boston. "Through his research he made a significant contribution to the scientific understanding of the fate and effect of trace metals on the marine environment".\*

Along with his picture on the program for the ceremony, his colleagues had placed the following photo of Gordon's office blackboard which I found fascinating and poignant. I also was intrigued by its similarity to the 1968 oil painting "Synopsis of a Battle" by Cy Twombly, an artist who was a particular favorite of mine. Twombly died in 2011.

The hand drawn marks in both pictures communicate with a language that emerges from their individual search for answers... one is a fine scientist, the other a fine artist! Clearly the answers sought are not the same, but I find similarities in their process compelling!



Scientific notation on Gordon' Wallace's blackboard 08/07/2010



Oil painting "Synopsis of a Battle" by Cy Twombly, 1968

### Knowing

The bright awakening  
of this summer day— now  
is discouraged and overcast  
for the sun has blinded me to joy.

And on this long, long, long day  
there is a knowing, my friend,  
that overtakes and shatters me  
and drives me inward.

This knowing of you  
who to my mind is not yet missing  
remains intact in deep reflection  
so close yet far away.

So I find myself in the high sky  
as though to mediate the expanse  
that spreads between us— this  
spiritual universe of knowing.

This is the universe we both explore  
even when one of us, or the other,  
is away from sight,  
as you are so out of reach.

Yet our muses of art and science  
combine their voices  
to challenge universal questions  
concerning what is true.

Your science fails you  
too, my art is of no use.  
we now journey to a new reality  
with only one phone.

I miss you and our tomorrows...  
please find a way to call  
if you unearth those answers  
we should need to know.

08/07/2010

\* from the Program for Memorial Bench Program

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