



# HERE THERE BE MONSTERS

Environmental Paintings  
by Laura & Gary Dumm

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## About the Artists and this Series

Ripping relevant issues from the news and putting them onto canvas, the Dummies hope their latest collaboration will start conversations and promote awareness. The couple catch the viewers' attention with their brightly colored pop surrealist work and inspire them to ponder the ramifications of society's actions.

Working on the same canvases, the partners discuss meaning and content. Gary researches the topics and sketches each piece. After further discussion, he makes revisions and the final sketches before they both OK it. He then transfers the drawing onto the canvas where Laura takes over with the painting. The process often includes additions and changes; by the time she has completed the painting, he has another ready for her.

"It really works out wonderfully because we both have strong but very different talents to bring to the canvas table," Laura explained.

The pair worked on a show about current issues together in 2013-2014 called *The Fame Shame Blame Game*, tackling subjects like greed, corporate outsourcing, prescription drug abuse, the American dream, and other newsworthy subjects.

"It was wild seeing the people at the opening and closings talking about the paintings and actually discussing things other than the wine and cheese that we served," she said.

The experience inspired them to do a series on current environmental concerns. The duo wanted to create educational tools to bring light to problems like GMOs and pesticides, and ask questions like "what would happen if we lost the bees?" or "how have our oceans and bodies of water been affected by oil spills and discarded plastics?"

Gary came up with the idea to use classic horror monsters as immediately recognizable and relatable figures of science experiments gone wrong.

"Young children can relate to them not just because of the monsters, but because they know about the environment and they CARE about these issues," Laura said of the paintings. "Adults are drawn to them because they remember the monsters from their childhood and are concerned about what kind of future their children will have on Mother Earth."





# HERE THERE BE MONSTERS

*Environmental Paintings by Laura & Gary Dumm*

Legend has it that cartographers in the Middle Ages brandished words of warning on the unexplored areas of their maps.

***“Here There Be Monsters; Dragons Be Here.”***

However, modern times can reveal the known to be more ghastly than the unknown as Laura and Gary Dumm explore in their latest environmental pop-surrealist art series.

Iconic movie monsters, who were often the by-products of corporate greed and human egotism manipulating nature to spawn our own annihilation, are used to present the consequences of pollution, climate change, genetic engineering, for profit destruction of animal habitats, and extinctions.

We are mutating into the monsters  
devouring our world.

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Each painting is 36” x 36” except  
“The Four Horsemen of Extinction” which is 48” x 36”  
all are acrylic on canvas  
Drawings are 15” x 15” pen and ink on bristol board.

# PESTICIDES



## Scream of the Butterflies

As we poison insects' food supply, we also poison our own. Pesticides are welcomed for making plants insect-resistant, but the resulting adverse consequences to multiple species including our own is problematic. Creating pesticide-resistant plants appears to be a good idea until it isn't.

Why are we willing to take a bite out of food not fit for a fly?



# LOSS OF POLLINATORS

## To Bee Or Not To Be

Decimation of the bee population and pollinators will come back to sting us with the reduction of our food supply. Humans are deft at destruction. Stronger societies obliterate weaker ones. And whole species may not survive due to lack of food, harsh climate, predation and the inability to adapt.

How many of us would be willing to grow a garden and pollinate the plants ourselves after we've destroyed a species merely because they were inconvenient?



# SOCIAL MEDIA



## # Abandon Ye Hope All Who Enter Here

According to the 14th century epic poem by Dante, similar words of warning appear above the gates of Hell. We now hold in our hands the cell phone, a sort of “puzzle box,” a powerful electronic tool capable of undreamed of wonders not only of computation, engagement and entertainment, but also of distraction, diversion and perversion. Say “Hello!” to the new devil you know.

Is it getting hot in here, or is it just me?



# LOSS OF HABITAT

## Reef, (Err), Madness

Australia's Great Barrier Reef has been home to an incredible diversity of marine life, but, like the proverbial "canary in a coal mine" it now presents a stark warning about global warming. The colorful corals (and the aquatic life that depends on them) are dying due to the rising temperature of the ocean there; leaving behind only bleached bones and the stillness of a watery graveyard.

"We all live in a yellow submarine"...Will we recognize the problem before that's the only place left for us to live?



# AUTOMATION



## Washed Away In The Digital Reign

The greatest threat to the life and vibrancy of America's Middle Class is not legal or illegal immigration, but job loss due to computer-driven automation/robotics. Technological advances have adversely affected blue-collar employment and soon will endanger white-collar jobs in accounting, legal services and with CGI, even movie stars. Beware the worm in the Apple.

Who's going to help to retrain the millions of unemployed...robots?



# HERBICIDES IN FOODS

## Up-Chucky, The Breakfast Of Cereal Killers

Hey, kids, weed killer, it's what's for breakfast! Glyphosate is the broad-spectrum herbicide from Monsanto that's approved by the EPA (in concert with Monsanto) and is deemed a "probable carcinogen" by the World Health Organization. It is present in high, non-acceptable amounts in some cereals and other foods that are children's favorites.

Should agri-business's quest for "better" methods of food production be done at the cost of the health and lives of America's most vulnerable?



# OCEAN LEVELS



## **Saraband For A Sinking Fantasy Land**

The oceans' water levels are rising due to global warming, and low-lying coastal areas are the first to feel the effects of this sea change. Fiddling away your time and living in Fantasyland is no protection when you're "up to your ass in alligators" and have to take a boat to get back and forth to work.

Is the continued denial of reality worth such a price?



# FOSSIL FUELS

## Old King Coal

We love our electrically-powered technologies, but there's a price to be paid for them beyond money. The burning of fossil fuels makes millions for some industries and supports our current lifestyle but at what health cost?

The newer technologies of wind and solar power allow us to take advantage of renewable resources without concurrent pollution.

And who doesn't like a nice set of healthy lungs?



# ANIMAL EXTINCTION





## **The Four Horsemen of Extinction**

Cowboy vampires (from *Nosferatu*, *Blood of Dracula*, *Horror of Dracula* and *Blackula*) kill off the quagga, baiji, passenger pigeon, Cape lion, Bali tiger, West African black rhino, Caribbean monk seal, Pyrenean ibex, Spix's macaw, and Tasmanian "tiger" (all species extinct due to the direct actions of humans).

Because only soulless, blood-thirsty creatures would knowingly destroy other beings, right?!



# AMERICAN ANGST



## **The Invisible Man Returns (To Fascism)**

Sinclair Lewis said “When Fascism comes to America, it will come wrapped in the flag and carrying the cross.” This is the American invisible man, who feels that he has been forgotten by America; he’s lost his job, his power and his dignity.

Politicians have preyed on his hopelessness and anger, using chaos as a tool to get and retain power while disregarding the costs to our democratic processes and institutions.

When down is up and up is down, how do we know where we’re going?

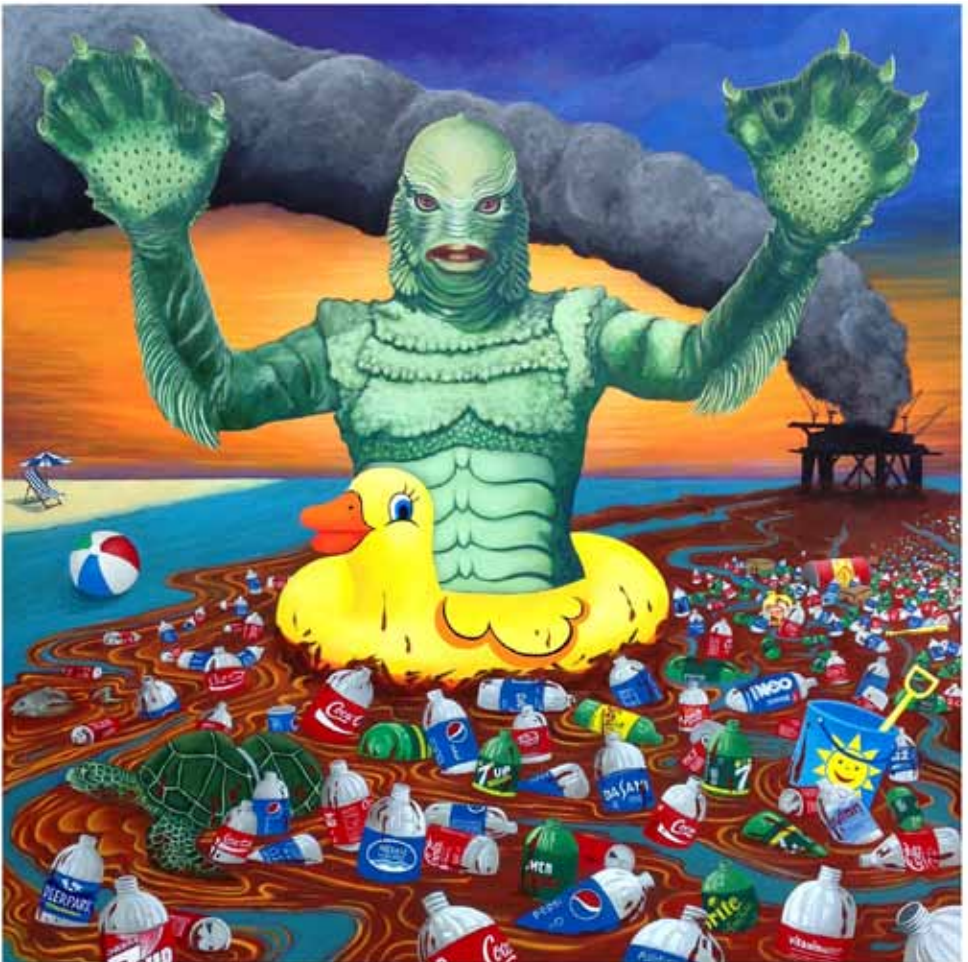


# WATER POLLUTION

## Burning In Water, Drowning In Plastic

We have created an enormous plastic floating island in the Pacific Ocean by the overuse and pollution from fossil fuels, and the cavalier disposal of non-biodegradable plastic products (especially water bottles). It currently looms large as a threat to the biosphere.

Would you buy a home or take a vacation there?



# GENETIC ENGINEERING



## Because We Can

The consequences of scientific experimentation and deliberate genetic mutation are revealed by those playing God. The primary goal of alchemy, the precursor to modern science methods, was turning base metals (lead) into gold. Experimental results like the Taranchihuahua, Hammerhen, Tigerphant and Macaqueroaches question the scientific method, however.

What could possibly go wrong?

# DEFORESTATION

## Have It Your Way

Would you like loss of animal habitat and biodiversity with that? Rainforests are cleared to raise delicious, juicy beef as even our cartoons are left offering: “I will gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today.”

Just how much are we willing to pay? And when?





# 6TH MASS EXTINCTION

## Listen, The Fat Lady Is Singing

This island Earth has been through 5 previous mass extinctions during its history because of natural geologic and climate change factors. But the current sixth mass extinction (the anthropocentric extinction) due to global warming can be attributed directly to human activity since the Industrial Revolution.

Will we change our habits and get our act together before the curtain comes down and the lights go out?





# FRACKING



## Poisoned Water; It's A Gas!

In order to lessen our dependence on foreign oil the U.S. has allowed the almost unimpeded growth of “fracking” (a process that injects water and chemicals into shale to fracture and release the natural gases - methane etc.- trapped therein) by natural gas companies. This process also produces large quantities of poisoned water that are reinjected deeper in the ground for disposal, ostensibly far below pure water aquifers.

Would you like that flaming glass of water shaken or stirred?

# DRUG POLLUTION

## Jekyll-Hyde (Flushed With Pride)

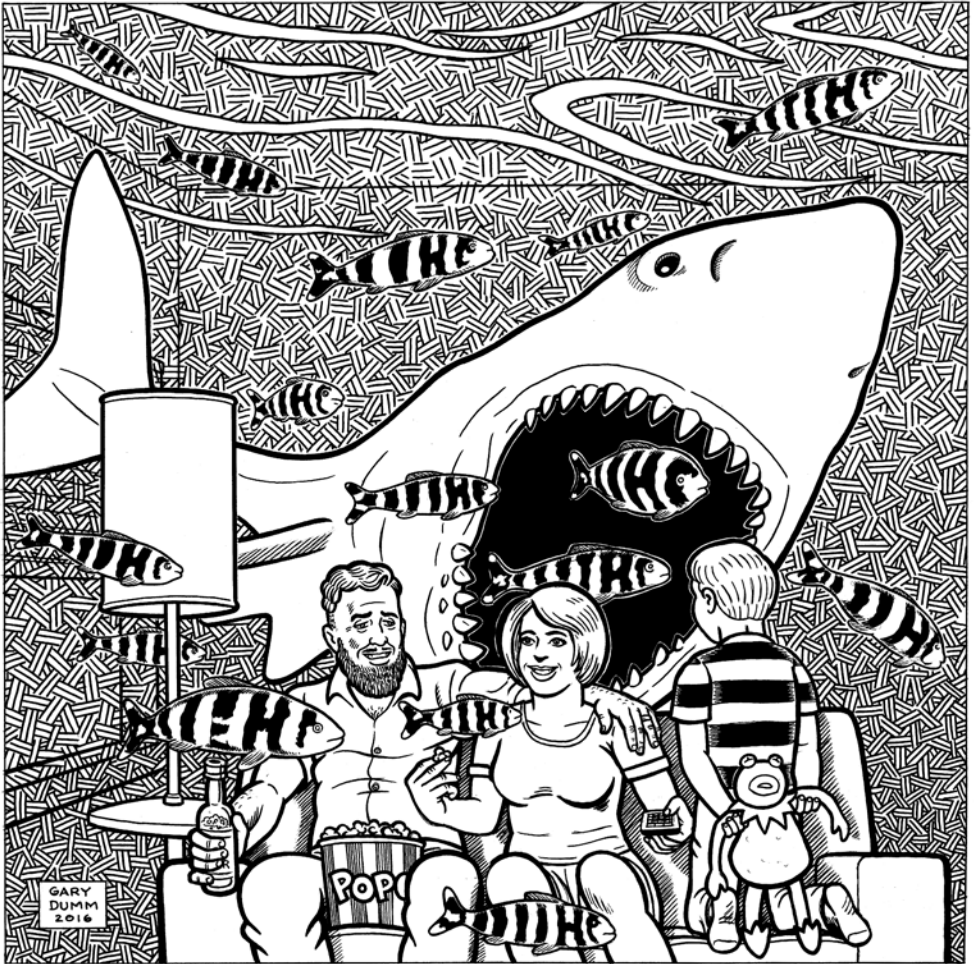
Prescription drugs can be a very good thing in the treatment of many maladies, but their overabundance, misuse and abuse is the flip-side: the curse that comes with the blessing.

Compounding the problem is the improper disposal of said drugs by flushing them down the toilet, introducing amphetamines, psychedelics etc. into our water supply.

Whatever happened to the cautionary admonition for doctors to “First, do no harm”?



# GLOBAL WARMING



## Underwater And Too Late To Bail

If your mortgage is more than the value of your home, you're considered by the bank to be "underwater." As global warming raises both the temperature and level of the oceans the low-lying coastal areas unfortunately will feel this in a most inundating literal sense.

Unlike the proverbial frog in the slowly heated pot of water that thinks there's nothing wrong until it's boiling alive, when will we realize the danger and do something?



# NUCLEAR ENERGY

## Atomic Apocalyptic Tango

The disaster at Japan's Fukushima nuclear power plant was the result of plant operator Tokyo Electric Power's failure to meet basic safety requirements leading to three nuclear meltdowns and the release of radioactive material. Like Godzilla, Fukushima was a warning, but it's way more fun to dance like there's no tomorrow.

Would you invite Godzilla to cut a rug through your city?



# DEFORESTATION



## Have It Your Way 1.2

Another take on deforestation and self-destruction in the name of money and a cheaper burger.

Would you buy a burger from this unshaven spokesclown?

# AMERICAN ANGST



## **The Invisible Man Returns (To Fascism) drawing**

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