

Hi Sandra,

First a bit of clarification. The weed sculptures are each individually called *Weed*. When grouped together in the past they were called *Abandon*. In the future I think the installations will simply be *Untitled*.

Regarding *Die Distel*, I only learned about that painting when I received a catalog from the Realismus show about 5 months ago. I was however, aware of Durer's *Large Turf*, though at the time I mostly considered it to be a study of nature (even if lowly) rather than the metaphorical deployment of nature, which were my interests. My intent was to question the value and worth of certain sanctioned culture and the moral implications of such. Therefore I focused on the situational and contextual aspects of the subject (weeds are after all contextually codified). Unlike some institutional critique I hoped my work would move beyond just the art institution and be applied as metaphor for general classifications of societal worth and worthiness.

There is a significant distinction between experiencing a weed as a painting and experiencing a sculpture as a weed. The former is initially an art experience and the latter is initially just experience (or close to it.). Similar to experiencing some of Duane Hanson's work, my hope was that one would have a real experience before having an art experience and all that that entails.

I hope this illuminates some of the issues you were concerned with. Please let me know if there are any other questions.

All the best,

-Tony