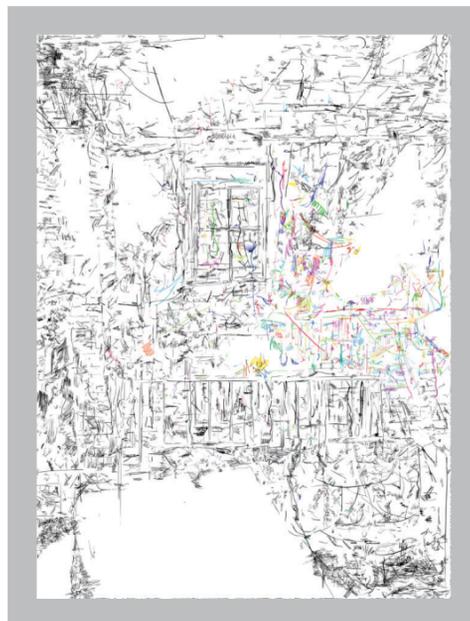


Ghent, Belgium

Steven Baelen fills sketchbooks with densely packed drawings of his immediate surroundings. These drawings breathe a homely, even intimate atmosphere.

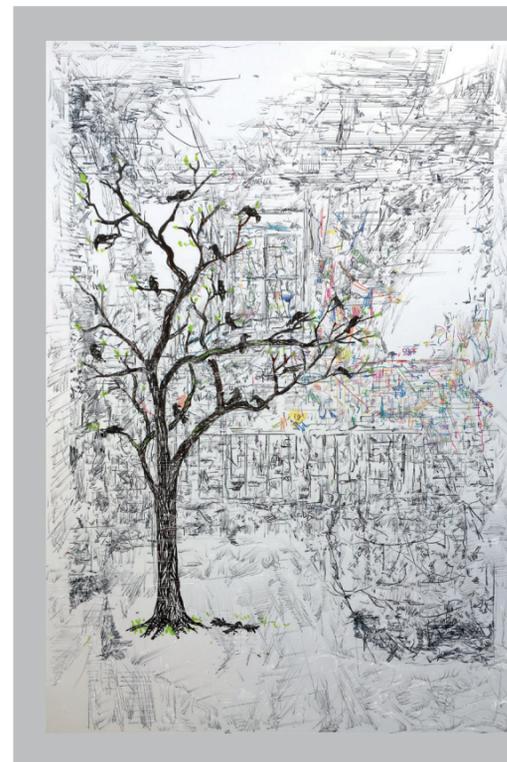
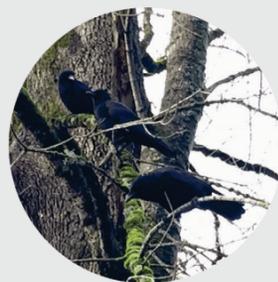
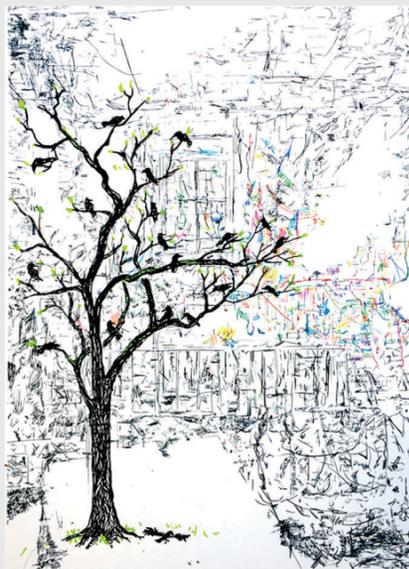
Rooted in the passion to delineate my intimate surrounding by pencil on paper and later by charcoal on the wall, I have understood the drawing in its fragility & ephemerality, but I have been using exactly this value in order to enforce the power that a drawing material can produce.

stevenbaelen.com



Steven and Thomas combined indoor and outdoor scenes to construct a strange scene of a flock of 19 crows--corvids--in a living room. Unable to access his studio and caring for his family in Belgium, a country particularly hard-hit by the virus, Steven felt unable to complete the project. Thomas integrated an image of Steven and his son as he worked alone on a final composition.

In Portland Oregon crows are a part of daily life. For the past five years I have befriended a small group of crows and feed them leftover pet and human food on a daily basis. I noticed that name of the pandemic is Covid-19. Crows are part of the Corvid family of birds. The dead crow at the foot of the tree represents the dropped "r" from corvid making it "Covid". The 19 crows complete the concept.



I added an extra layer of the same room, different (digital) strokes. In a way, the interior is changing into a landscape, I kind of like it that way.

Portland, Oregon, USA

Tom is a former east coaster and Pratt Institute graduate who started his career

as an illustrator in couture fashion. While his professional path has meandered in the world of tech and design, he feeds his passion for fine art by enjoying the west coast weather, capturing the beauty of the many breath taking trees and enjoying making art wherever he goes.

As a representational artist, I enjoy drawing the viewers' attention to the visual rhythm revealed by light as it falls on seemingly chaotic textures; be it the branches of trees, the feathers on a bird, or the unruly hair of a Scottish Deerhound. I work in all mediums but tend to favor pen & ink and water color.

www.thomasduane.com - www.thomasduanedesign.com



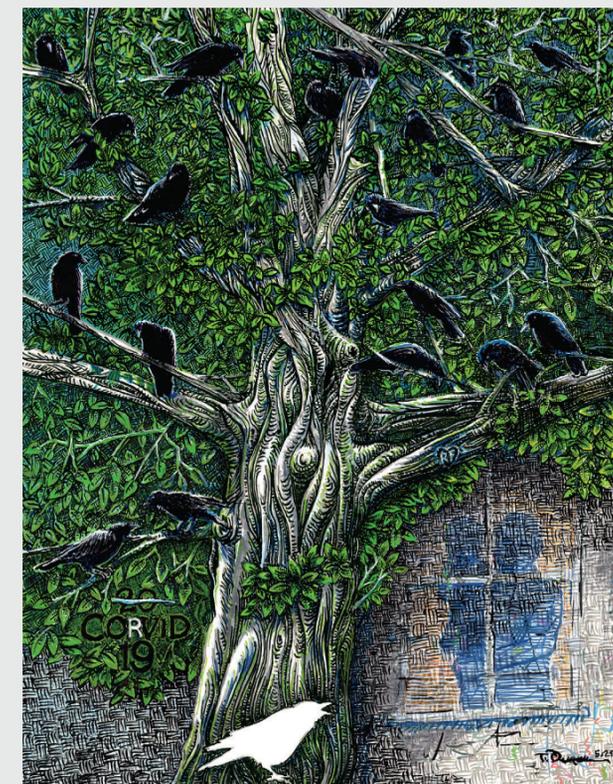
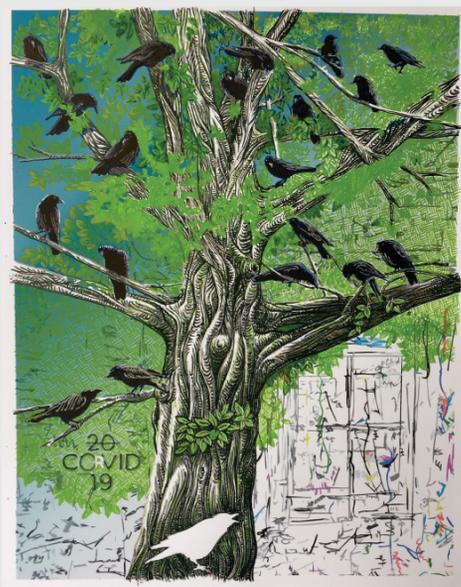
Steven Baelen and Thomas S. Duane

Steven had to drop out of the collaboration to take care of his son. To acknowledge his sacrifice, I added a silhouette of a father holding his son looking out their window while they shelter-in-place.



If you notice the RF on the tree limb I put it there to honor our beautiful, brave, dynamic niece who valiantly fought but ultimately lost her fight with cancer. We love her and will miss her, but because of the cursed Covid-19 we were not able to be there in person for her funeral. Her wishes live on: Live Kindly, Live Loudly!

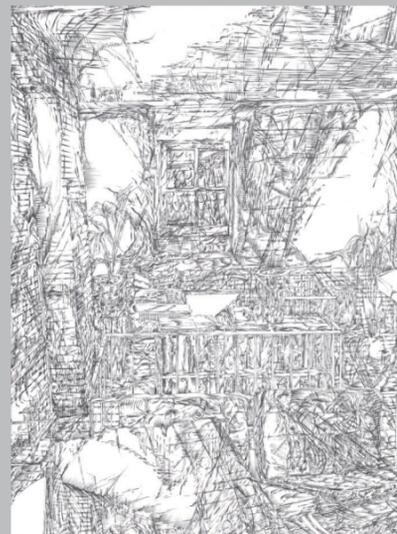
When Steven sent his sketch, I focused on the widow as the obvious metaphor for the concept of "view". The tree is from Brussels, Steven's home city. I see crows in the trees all around my home in Portland OR. In mythology crows are an omen of bad luck or death. In other lore, they are the messengers of the gods. These crows are a family that I've befriended. Penelope is the female, the largest of the three. The middle crow is her mate and the topmost is their baby from last year. He will stay with his parents and help raise this years baby crow. Crows can live for over 20 years, can be taught to speak, use tools and can solve complex puzzles. Penelope recognizes me and lets me know she is near by swooping down and flying right past my face. Much to my dog Rosie's dismay, I will share her treats with Penelope and her family. The white crow is the "20th" who is now a ghost caw'ing in alarm about the pandemic.



'20 Corvid 19'
Acrylic,
Watercolor and
ink
11" x 14"

A Brussels' tree with 19 crows while a father and son look out their window as they shelter-in-place. The 20th crow is a ghost who is caw'ing the alarm.

Unable to access his studio and caring for his family in Belgium, a country particularly hard-hit by the virus, Steven felt unable to complete the project.



Instead he shared with us this work-in-progress image for the project: a layered digital drawing of his upper living room, an interior changing into a landscape.