Stanton’s Top 100 Exploratory Beginnings for Conceptual Development

1. Crowds/mobs (emotion, vitality, brutality, harmony etc.)

2. Distortions (mental, physical or visual)

3. Unique Perspectives (bird's eye view, fish eye lens, worm's view)

4. Repetition (patterns of visual components, routines, similarities)

5. Anamorphic images

6. Portraits (beheaded, death, survivors, aged, character/soul)

7. Monotone/chromatic expressiveness

8. Looking through something (inner to outer or vice versa, square inside a square,

 Matryoshka doll, infinity)

9. Light /Shadows (acting through, over, on, from something for mood/meaning)

10. Contrasting Juxtaposition (media, surfaces, textures or ironic imagery)

11. Variations on the same thing (passing of time, feeling, moment, age, etc)

12. Diptychs, Triptychs, etc. (Interconnections)

13. Unifying varying compositions

14. Fragmentation or decomposing compositions

15. Creatively creating tactile textures

16. Layering components (see through surfaces, images overlapped, ghost like)

17. Compositional connections with diverse subjects

18. Current topics of interest (TV, media, political, community, controversial)

19. Opposition/ Contrast

20. Radial components (cycles, centrifugal motion, centers)

21. Origins, provenance, inception, ancestry etc.

22. Blurred image with emphasized details for focal points

23. Subliminal imagery (find after beginning, plan an image to imply)

24. Pain, suffering, struggle

25. Interactions, intertwined, intermingled, melted blended, fused, merged subjects

26. Irregular surfaces/shapes (windows, doors, arched canvases, altarpieces)

27. Haze, misty, blurred, smoked, confusion, befuddlement in an image

28. Dramatic foreshortening, elongation (starvation, obesity)

29. Reflective surfaces (innuendo of surface to reflected imagery?)

30. Insinuations, allusion, aspersion, under/overtone implication through subject

31. Darkness, silhouettes, absence, void seen through composition of subjects

32. Illustration, caricature, parody, satire, travesty, mockery

33. Visual poetry/dreams, surrealism depicted through subjects

34. Emphasis- color, mood, interest, focal point, connection etc. through subject/s

35. Application/Techniques/Process for conceptual meaning

36. Desertion, solitude, abandonment, privacy, withdrawal, seclusion, loneliness, estrangement, alienation, companionship, contact

37. Vibrancy, enthusiasm, energy, resonation, vitality, exuberance, vigor, drive, verve, sparkle, spirit, striking, dynamic components through subject

38. Conveying the senses visually that are not visual- smell, movement, touch, sound, taste

39. Controversy/ shock factors through subject matter

40. Horology- Moments captured/suspended in time, junctures, eras, durations, phases, epoch, existence, conditions/states, destiny revolution, constancy, simultaneous, relentlessness, sporadic, outdated, temporary, fleeting, eventual, persistence conveyed through subject/s

41. Beauty (natural, fake, worldly, culturally, personally)

42. Genre art- everyday items, domestic equipment, restaurants,

43. Religion- historical, cultural, divergence, standard, departure, abidance

44. Recycled, treasures from junk, environmental

45. Signs, billboards, premonitions, foreshadowing, & symbols

46. Forking in the road, decisions, & pathways

47. Stages of development- unresolved/unfinished, outlines

48. Elaborate detailing to items of beauty- i.e. Sergeant dresses

49. Unique poses of figure, & settings- allegorical

50. Translations of space

51. Mirrors for distraction/ subtly

52. Sculpture with mass production of item used for repetition- uniformity

53. Subject matter camouflaged into background/foreground

54. Extreme measures- emaciated vs. glutinous, poverty vs. wealth

55. Morality/ Seven deadly sins- envy, greed, lust, pride, etc.

56. Human face- emotions and objects portrayed

57. Tragedy- broken hearts, smashed car accidents, etc.

58. Sexuality- transgender/ gay world, virtue

59. Euphoria- basking the sun, feeling music through dance, painting

60. Carnivorous, vegetarian, cannibalism lifestyles

61. Seeing the same person repeated in the same composition

62. Social etiquettes- picking nose etc.

63. Times of frustration- traffic jams, waiting in lines, people annoying you

64. Addictions, interventions, abuse, drugs

65. Social conditions- homelessness, human rights/equity, disease, philanthropies, crime

66. Barriers, fences, boundaries, personal space, interference

67. Death seen through subject/s, murder, suicide

68. Love seen through subject/s

69. Life seen through subject/s

70. Hate seen through subject/s

71. Family and Friends

72. Destructions- fire, blown apart, ripped, crushed

73. Changes- time elapsed, growth, metamorphosis

74. Racial, ethnic or cultural perspectives/ stereotypes

75. Macro or micro viewpoints- gaining perspective, magnification, scrutiny

76. Current affairs- newspaper headlines etc.

77. Symmetry, fractals, mathematics, Fibonacci sequence

78. Literary depictions

79. Anatomy, scientific discovery, innovation

80. Technological advances, future conditions, moving toward or away from

 Apocalypse/ utopia

81. Freedom vs. oppression, authority & justice

82. Using the arbitrary for effect with materials

83. Kinesthetic, sports, physical achievement, battling physical adversity

84. Idolatry

85. Pieces placed incorrectly- puzzles

86. Ignorance

87.Disregard, apathy and indifference

88. Submerged, fish bowls, liquids

89. Insignificance, meaninglessness, purpose, predetermined, nature or nurture

90. Fantasy- fictional creatures, monsters

91. Urban legends, ancestral anecdotes

92. Historical imagery, implications influences, variance

93. Trompe l'oeil

94. Atrocity- cancer, brutality, afflictions

95. Perfection/ Imperfection

96. Animal cruelty, violence and maliciousness

97. Virtue, innocence, purity

98. Intentions- good, lost, fulfilled goals, aspiration

99. Motive, motivation, capability, responsibility

100. A Human condition