

If you were the creator of a piece of work, written or visual, would you want to be recognized for it? The essay “Death of the Author”, written by Roland Barthes explores this concept of where an artist stands in terms of their work and where credit is due. Barthes proposes the work already exists in the universe and the artist is simply the medium through which the work can be created. The author/artist deserves no credit. After reading this essay, I have provided my own thoughts and explorations on this matter through a mixed media art piece including engineering film, ink, acrylic paint, and plaster cloth. There is the organic aspect of my work through the fluid movement and swirls of acrylic paint and ink. I had very limited control over this part of the work, thus allowing the “universe” to create what already existed. I literally surrounded it with casts of my own hand in an overlapping repetitive manner demonstrating the opposing thought process to Barthes. This, in turn, creates both sides to this issue. After debating this issue in my head, the only question that came to mind was why wouldn’t the author/artist want a small amount of credit for the time and work they put into the art?

According to Roland Barthes, the universe has brought to existence a series of work through my hand. This is one of them.