

Contact:

Aaron Truesdell

(312) 315-1464

aarontruesdell@att.net

AaronTruesdell.com

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Aaron Truesdell is a professional artist born and raised in Chicago. Aaron's preferred art mediums are oil paint, graphite, charcoal and some pastels and acrylics. Art education and training; Prairie State Community College Chicago Heights, IL 2yrs; American Academy of Fine Arts-Chicago 3yrs; Also a member of and taken classes at Pallet & Chisel Academy of Fine Arts-Chicago; classes taken at the Art Institute of Chicago also. Some exhibits and shows participated include The Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce Ohio, Palette & Chisel, Portrait and Works on Paper Show; The Special Things Gallery of Evanston IL; Sports Memorabilia Show; The Susan Woodson Gallery of Hyde Park Chicago; Black Creativity Show an annual show held every February at The Museum of Science and Industry which in 1989 he won 1st place; The Dusable Museum Art Show; etc. Aaron has also done a mural for Bessie Coleman Library of Chicago and Chicago's Children Museum. Aaron has paintings hanging in banks and many private homes throughout the Chicago land area.

Artist Statement:

I grew up in Chicago in a family of seven boys and one girl. I'm a seventh son in this family of eight children so we played a lots of sports. Baseball was king of sports when I grew up. Of all the sports baseball was my favorite and the Cubs was my favorite team. I began to like baseball around nine years old. I saw the last few years of Ernie banks career and he immediately became my favorite Cub player. I had the pleasure of meeting him at a sports memorabilia show. A few months prier to that show I was able to get Ernie Banks to autograph my painting of him and about 20 prints I had made from the original painting through one of the sports memorabilia store owners participating in that show. My art career was put in low gear for about 26 and a half years until 2 years ago. I gained custody of my 2 sons through a divorce in the early 90's. I worked full time in construction as a union Sprinkler-fitter. I did this to have a consistent pay check to raise my 2 sons. It was always my prayer and desire to retire early and return to practicing art full time. It's also my desire to maximize my gift and talent and see how good an artist I could be. Over the last 28 years I have painted and drawn whenever time permitted. I have quite a few paintings that I've never displayed in public. Over the past 2 years I'm gradually working my way back into the art world. To be honest I'm not where I thought I'd be by now but I'm just as excited and grateful to God for the opportunity to live out and reach for my dreams and visions. I'm excited to see how I will evolve as an artist. The 3 pieces I've submitted are baseball pieces but I do paint other subject matter that doesn't pertain to sports. You are welcome to view my website at www.AaronTruesdell.com

Work:

Title: Ernie Banks, Mr Cub

Year Made: 2008

Size: 32" x 50.5"

Materials: Oil on Canvas

Price: \$3,000

Contact:

Alan Cain

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alanjcain.com

instagram.com/raisincain

twitter.com/alanjcain

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Alan Cain is a local artist based in Chicago, IL. A Michigan transplant, Alan received his B.A.A. from Central Michigan University, with a double concentration in Sculpture & Ceramics. Much of his previous work has been both functional, sculptural, and site specific installation work. He tends to draw inspiration from exuberantly colored graphic design, architecture, and street art.

Artist Statement:

Having been enamored since a young age with the incredible architecture Chicago has to offer, it tends to be a recurring theme in my work. One architect, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, has always struck a chord with my aesthetic for clean lines. In this series I chose to depict Mies' iconic skyscraper design while staying true to his minimalist 'less is more' approach (sort of).

Work:

Title: Spotlight Mies

Year Made: 2017

Size: 24" x 18"

Materials: Acrylic on Canvas

Price: \$175

Title: Easter Mies

Year Made: 2017

Size: 24" x 18"

Materials: Acrylic on Canvas

Price: \$175

Title: Rainbow Mies

Year Made: 2017

Size: 24" x 18"

Materials: Acrylic on Canvas

Price: \$175

Contact:

Aldo Quintanar

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Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Aldo is a visual and sound artist currently residing in Chicago. After a brief stint studying painting and drawing at the University of Southern California in the late nineties, he completed his BFA with an emphasis in painting and drawing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2015. His work utilizes evocative, rhythmic, and dynamic elements and materials combined with ideas regarding spirituality, tolerance, and the self. Aldo has exhibited in art shows in the Los Angeles and Chicago-land area. Most recently he had a one man show at the Illinois Math and Science Academy.

Artist Statement:

This piece is a personal take on the climate surrounding law enforcement and its relationship to the public. As a long time resident of Chicago, I have witnessed and experienced firsthand the precarious interactions law enforcement has with the public, especially in regards to people of color. What does the construct of law and order really mean? Who really are the criminals? And who is afraid of who? Chicago is a wonderful place for some people, but not for all who reside in this city. This dichotomy must be confronted.

Work:

Title: of all the things we've made

Year Made: 2015

Size: 30" x 40"

Materials: Mixed Media on Canvas

Price: \$750

Contact:

Alexandra Nelson
alexandra.samios@gmail.com
facebook.com/AlexandrasDrawings

Artist Profile:

I have been involved in art making in Chicago since 1978, with numerous one-artist shows, works in corporate and private collections, and experience curating and staging exhibitions. I was the gallery manager at Contemporary Art Workshop, where I also served on the board until their closing in 2010, and I have shown at the Illinois State Fair, Illinois State Museum Invitational, College of DuPage, Bernal Gallery, A. R. C. Gallery, Artemisia Gallery, Contemporary Art Workshop, and elsewhere. Due to my life circumstances, I suspended my active art practice in the mid-90s although I have continued to make new work throughout my life. I have recently revived my art career through self-publication online, with the blog Artistic Hang-ups (naxnart.blogspot.com), and the Facebook pages Replanting a Life and Another 100 Drawings. In April 2017 I will have my first one-person show in many years, at the artists' space Friendzone Gallery in Logan Square.

Artist Statement:

I work with pencil on paper because of the tactility and immediacy of this substrate. I use it for its impermanence, and because it keeps me from being too precious and attached. Dripping the subject to its essential lines and expression, I draw the world from the bones out and use words to create form.

Combining threads of representation and abstraction, as well as my identity as a writer and poet, my new works explore the theme of the hidden: those people in our society that we turn away from. The drawings beg participation; they are still life performance art. Using stationary frames, I create an illusion of movement, triggered by a word, or a shape, or the tearing and rearranging of the paper itself, words written directly on the wall. The viewer cannot escape taking part, imposing their own interpretation, or decoding the message from their own inner dialogue. These themes converge: the stripped-down wisdom of the crone, the essentiality of the abstract, the hidden and the silenced in our society.

Ida B. Wells was one of the most powerful voices in Chicago's past, with words that resonate today as our sisters and brothers lose their lives to a corrupt and unfettered system. "Ida Betrayed" uses Mother Wells' words to highlight the modern version of the lynchings about which she raged so eloquently more than a century ago.

Work:

Title: Ida Betrayed
Year Made: 2017
Size: 29" x 31"
Materials: Pencil and Pen on Paper and Wall
Price: \$750

Contact:

Alexandra Samios
xan@junoconsulting.net

Artist Profile:

I have been involved in art making in Chicago since 1978, with numerous one-artist shows, works in corporate and private collections, and experience curating and staging exhibitions. I was the gallery manager at Contemporary Art Workshop, where I also served on the board until their closing in 2010, and I have shown at the Illinois State Fair, Illinois State Museum Invitational, College of DuPage, Bernal Gallery, A. R. C. Gallery, Artemisia Gallery, Contemporary Art Workshop, and elsewhere. Due to my life circumstances, I suspended my active art practice in the mid-90s although I have continued to make new work throughout my life. I have recently revived my art career through self-publication online, with the blog Artistic Hang-ups (naxnart.blogspot.com/), and the Facebook pages Replanting a Life and Another 100 Drawings. In April 2017 I will have my first one-person show in many years, at the artists' space Friendzone Gallery in Logan Square.

Artist Statement:

These works represent the second strain of my artistic practice- representational renderings of objects, landscapes, and people. Using drawing, poetry, and essay, I have been exploring the world through a filter of art, testing my ability to see. How one thing relates to another in the visual plane or in the fantasy that is a representational drawing. How a word repeated becomes a prayer. The shattering of expectations that is abstraction.

Work:

Title: Jetty, Morse Beach, from 100 Drawings

Year Made: 2015

Size: 7" x 10"

Materials: Pencil on Paper

Price: \$85 (individual) \$375 (set of four)

Title: Grant Park Fountain, from 100 Drawings

Year Made: 2014

Size: 7" x 10"

Materials: Pencil on Paper

Price: \$85 (individual) \$375 (set of four)

Title: Monroe Harbor, from 100 Drawings

Year Made: 2014

Size: 7" x 10"

Materials: Pencil on Paper

Price: \$85 (individual) \$375 (set of four)

Title: Bungalow roof, Rogers Park, from 100 Drawings

Year Made: 2014

Size: 7" x 10"

Materials: Pencil on Paper

Price: \$85 (individual) \$375 (set of four)

Contact:

Alonzo Alcaraz

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alonzo_alcaraz@yahoo.com

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Alonzo Alcaraz is a first generation Mexican American writer, filmmaker and photographer from the South Side of Chicago. After having written and produced several films including his first feature length film in 2015, Alonzo's creative endeavors have moved him to the world of photography. Heavily influenced by the beauty of both his nationality and hometown, Alonzo's work is reflective of his environment. As a self-taught photographer, Alonzo's work ranges from intimate portraits to grandiose landscapes.

Artist Statement:

My love for Chicago and the beauty its night shows us, is reflected in this series. My choice for lighttrails is symbolic of the light that emanates around Chicago even if we don't notice it. This always-in-motion town whirls right by us, even when we are standing still. The trails also symbolize my growth as a photographer. These advanced photo techniques have been achieved through practice and numerous hours shooting and experimenting. On a final note, the names of my pieces were expertly chosen by my 6 year old son. Can you tell?

Work:

Title: Roady

Year Made: 2016

Size: 16" x 20"

Materials: Photography

Price: \$80 (framed) \$30 (unframed)

Title: YeloRedRode

Year Made: 2016

Size: 16" x 20"

Materials: Photography

Price: \$80 (framed) \$30 (unframed)

Title: Trainhaus

Year Made: 2016

Size: 16" x 20"

Materials: Photography

Price: \$80 (framed) \$30 (unframed)

Contact:

Andrew Rehs

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instagram.com/BeautifulMaladies

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

My name is Andrew and I am weird. But everyone is a little weird, it is just that some are better at hiding it than others. Seeing the beauty behind individuals and their weirdness is a part of my daily life as a therapist. I get the pleasure of getting a personal narrative through countless variations of the human experience. This has allowed me gain insight into first hand the power that the spectrum of emotions has on the cohesive, yet consistently metamorphic product of humanity, and unfortunately at times inhumanity. These emotions serve three major purposes in our human life cycle. They are meant to communicate when something is in need of a change. They motivate us to change situations that provide the negative emotions communicated to us from our neurological process. Finally, they validate for us that the change we made was the appropriate one for the current state of being. Another wonderful but daunting element of the life of a therapist is the risk of taking home and carrying the aforementioned emotions around like a nap sack throughout my daily personal life. My art has allowed me to channel this incredible responsibility and privilege of entering other individuals psyche and transform my interpretation of these genuine displays of emotion into works of transformative art through the realm of contemporary taxidermy art. To me, the presence of a skull has always been intriguing. Not just because of my personal obsessions or abnormal interest, but also the wide array of emotions it can evoke on others as well. It represents the many different elements of life to all different perspectives; death, rebirth, fear, strength, discomfort, sadness, and even eroticism. The other element to the consistent use of a naturally found skulls and bones in my work is also to provide an analogous representation of the incredible transformation that occurs when death produces new life. Whether that death is the loss of an actual human life resulting in the ignition of the process of carbon regeneration or a more representational definitive finish such as the end of a difficult era of someone's life, the epiphanic breakthrough of a regressed memory, the powerful internal conquering of a fear, or a more abstract finite "ah ha!" moment that occurs during a deep train of thought, death surrounds us and is essential for the continued cyclic nature of life that allows our existence. Each of my pieces is meant to evoke that guttural emotion that promotes change. Regardless of the emotion that is surfaced, I am satisfied with any evidence of an emotional shift that I see the viewer experience. I also intend to exhibit the ability to be in the presence of a symbol usually viewed in such negative light and rewire the thought process to view this very recognizable symbol in a representation of beauty, rebirth, and often at times, inducement. I welcome you to take a deep glimpse into the weirdest depths of my mind. Welcome to my world of Beautiful Maladies." Embrace your weird.

Artist Statement:

This world was built by emotions. If the human neuro make up was unable to perceive extremes of love, hate, sadness, and desire, we, as a whole race, would be unable to achieve what we have collectively created over the generations that have allowed us to evolve to the potpourri of personality traits coexisting, albeit aggressively at times, on this rock in this very large equation we refer to as "existence". To me, art, as a kindred depiction of existence, is entirely about emotion, those moments that force individual interpretation, or simply put "the human experience". So for me, getting the pleasure of having countless individuals entrust their emotional safety with me gives me a deeply raw portrayal of human perseverance through those evolutionary times. Though there are countless artists and friends who inspire me on a daily basis, it is the emotions, struggle, triumph from struggle, and the rebirth process that drives the dialectical nature of my art. I also am fueled by the smoothly raspy sounding of Thomas Alan Waits., hence the pseudonym "Beautiful Maladies". If you don't know, now you know.

Work:

Title: Reppin' Every Wood

Year Made: 2017

Size: 24" x 24"

Materials: Reclaimed Wood

Price: \$200

Title: You Can Count On Mr. Grip Razmataz

Year Made: 2016

Size: 12" x 12"

Materials: Spray Paint on Reclaimed Wood and Coyote Skull

Price: \$80

Title: Don Rottenberg is a freggin' yuppie

Year Made: 2016

Size: 12" x 12"

Materials: Spray Paint on Reclaimed wood and Coyote Skull

Price: \$80

Title: The Misadventures of Mickey Finn

Year Made: 2016

Size: 12" x 24"

Materials: Spray Paint on Reclaimed wood and Deer Skull

Price: \$150

Contact:

Andy Mott

afomott@gmail.com

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

I don't know. F-in, make something up.

Artist Statement:

The piece isn't necessarily inspired by Chicago but if it sells then all proceeds go to fund the Echo Chamber

Work:

Title: Preacher

Year Made: 2014

Size: 16" x 12"

Materials: Spray Paint and Marker on Steel Panel

Price: \$150

Contact:

Bridgit Gallagher
bridgit.gallagher@gmail.com
instagram.com/littlewingfolkart
etsy.com/shop/littlewingfolkart

Artist Profile:

Little Wing is a mixed media artist and photographer residing in Chicago. Her work is social, political, and spiritual expression from an intersectional feminist point of view.

Artist Statement:

These photographs were a social experiment exploring the inter-lapping worlds of social media and "real life." With the cardboard emoji cutout, the collective social media experience is brought to life and these candid shots capture the reaction to this collide.

Work:

Title: Finding Friends
Year Made: 2011
Size: 7" x 10"
Materials: Photograph
Price: NFS

Title: Friend Request
Year Made: 2011
Size: 7" x 10"
Materials: Photograph
Price: NFS

Title: .pixelate.me
Year Made: 2011
Size: 8.5" x 8"
Materials: Photograph
Price: NFS

Title: Scenes at Macy's
Year Made: 2011
Size: 20" x 7"
Materials: Photograph
Price: NFS

Title: Scenes on State St.
Year Made: 2011
Size: 35" x 25"
Materials: Photograph
Price: NFS

Contact:

Christopher Breiler
Liquidcityart@yahoo.com
facebook.com/LiquidCityArt
Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

I am a painter and lover of all things Chicago. I spent nearly 3 years as a full-time independent artist in the city and had some amazing experiences along the way. My art has been displayed at the Blackstone Hotel, House of Blues, and various businesses throughout the city.

Artist Statement:

In 2013, I was inspired to do a painting of someone that I found to be one of the most inspirational individuals of my lifetime.

This is a man that I deeply respect and admire, and I couldn't be more grateful for his service to this country. He faced unprecedented challenges and opposition with class and dignity. He was a champion for all of us who place a significant importance on social progress and equality for ALL citizens of this country.

Shortly after I completed the painting, I had the opportunity to take a tour of Air Force after it landed at O'hare. This painting flew back to Washington DC on Air Force One with the President and stayed near Andrews Air Force Base until I requested it back at the end of his final term.

While I am extremely concerned about the current climate of our country, this painting is a constant reminder of a time I felt most proud to be an American.

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

- President Barack Obama

Work:

Title: 44
Year Made: 2013
Size: 48" x 24"
Materials: Acrylic and Oil on Wood
Price: NFS

Contact:

Coale Souder

(224) 420-0849

csouder12@gmail.com

instagram.com/csouder12

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

A lifelong artist, there are few artistic mediums that Coale has not experimented with. Drawing, painting, photography, video, music composition and sculpture to name a few. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago graduating in 2008 with a focus in sculpture and painting. Since graduating, he has primarily focused on abstract drawing and painting and most recently, digital photography.

Artist Statement:

In this most recent body of work, I have been exploring the idea of opportunity through the medium of photography. Specifically outdoor urban photography at night. The world is a constantly changing place. Seasons change, lighting conditions shift, life grows and decays and people are on the move. Shooting at night presents an enormous challenge to capture these events. Low amounts of light force me to be more technically conscious on how I shoot as well as the need to perform longer exposures to capture the light needed for the picture. The process is not a point and shoot event that we are used to when we shoot during the day. It is a process of luck, patience and opportunity to capture the perfect image.

Work *Larger prints available. Pricing will vary:*

Title: On the Move 1

Year Made: 2017

Size: 8" x 10"

Materials: Digital Photo Print

Price: \$75

Title: On the Move 2

Year Made: 2017

Size: 8" x 10"

Materials: Digital Photo Print

Price: \$75

Title: Architectural Brutality

Year Made: 2017

Size: 8" x 10"

Materials: Digital Photo Print

Price: \$75

Title: Rail 1

Year Made: 2017

Size: 8" x 10"

Materials: Digital Photo Print

Price: \$75

Title: Rail 2

Year Made: 2017

Size: 8" x 10"

Materials: Digital Photo Print

Price: \$75

Title: Truck

Year Made: 2017

Size: 8" x 10"

Materials: Digital Photo Print

Price: \$75

Title: Snake

Year Made: 2017

Size: 8" x 10"

Materials: Digital Photo Print

Price: \$75

Title: Walk

Year Made: 2017

Size: 8" x 10"

Materials: Digital Photo Print

Price: \$75

Title: Bridge

Year Made: 2017

Size: 8" x 10"

Materials: Digital Photo Print

Price: \$75

Contact:

Curtis Robinson

(773) 615-0808

crobvirgo@gmail.com

facebook.com/CRVstudios

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Born and raised on the south west side of Chicago. Currently reside in the Edgewater neighborhood. Art has been apart of my life since the age of 4. Attended college at the Art Institutes of Colorado and Philadelphia receiving degrees in Oil painting and Graphic Design. Started doing public shows 2 years ago. I currently have art on display at various businesses around the Chicago Land area.

Artist Statement:

Even though this city has had a lot of ups and downs over the past few years due to violence. I'm proud to say that I was born and raised here. My Chicago themed piece has a lot of movement and energy which is what this city is all about.

Work:

Title: Different prospective

Year Made: 2016

Size: 12" x 40"

Materials: Acrylic on Canvas

Price: \$375

Title: Center of America

Year Made: 2016

Size: 24" x 24"

Materials: Acrylic on canvas

Price: \$250

Contact:

Daniel Cook

(773) 770-5165

cookdanjames@gmx.com

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Daniel James Cook has studied digital photography at SUNY Onondaga Community College where he is an honors student currently pursuing a business technology degree. He has received a Best Director Award in the Chicago 48 Hour Film fest. He has worked as a technical director and scene designer in Chicago's black box theatre and indie film communities. He was a board member of Echoes of Chicago from approximately 2003-2007. He currently lives on a solar-powered farm in Vermont with three horses, Jake the fish, Leo the dog and boots the cat. He is a member of the Cloud Appreciation Society and has, among other things, sworn to persuade all who will listen to the wonder and beauty of clouds.

Artist Statement:

The work captures the fleeting time of magic hour and explores the relationship we all share to light from the sun in all our environments. The piece captures two distinct and separate places bringing them together as one through the elements that make our environment on earth one distinct place out of a tapestry of many different geographic locations all united by the same mystical song of the everlasting sun. The photographs juxtapose rural and urban landscapes: the iconic Vermont wood-clad barn and the Chicago skyline from the south shore and are best enjoyed with good music. The photographs capture the essence of the artist's own move from Chicago to rural Vermont: two distinct places on one timeline with uniting elements from the environment. Printed with archival inks on canvas with gallery wrap.

Work:

Title: Iconic Sun: Old Backyard, New Backyard

Year Made: 2016-2017

Size: 20" x 40"

Materials: Digital Photographs on Canvas

Price: \$225

Contact:

Danko Farley

(708) 329-6333

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facebook.com/DANKOFARLEY

instagram.com/DANKOFARLEY

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Danko Farley is an art duo formed in 2016, based in Chicago. The two were introduced in college and stayed in contact for 10 years. Eventually, they realized it was time to bring their two different styles together to form one visual concept, adapting rendered style, graffiti street, layering, and natural textures with a mixture of realism.

Work:

Title: (The BIRD SERIES) The crow

Year Made: 2017

Size: 6" x 8"

Materials: Acrylic, Spray paint and Ink

Price: \$160

Title: (The BIRD SERIES) Royal

Year Made: 2017

Size: 6" x 8"

Materials: Acrylic, Spray paint and Ink

Price: \$160

Title: (The BIRD SERIES) The cardinal

Year Made: 2017

Size: 6" x 8"

Materials: Acrylic, Spray paint and Ink

Price: \$160

Title: (The BIRD SERIES) The blue bolt

Year Made: 2017

Size: 6" x 8"

Materials: Acrylic, Spray paint and Ink

Price: \$160

Title: (The BIRD SERIES) The green tail

Year Made: 2017

Size: 6" x 8"

Materials: Acrylic, Spray paint and Ink

Price: \$160

Contact:

Dexter Fabi

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dexter101@hotmail.com

<http://launcelot-dulac.livejournal.com/profile>

[etsy.com/shop/FixedBeArt](https://www.etsy.com/shop/FixedBeArt)

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Dexter has been exhibiting in art shows in Chicagoland and New York City. His aesthetic is influenced by the surrealists and science fiction pulp artists of the 1920s, 1930s, and the 1940s. He also considers himself a steampunk artist, depicting a retrofuture that branches from our current timeline. He is available for commissions, easy to approach, and always has a listening ear.

Artist Statement:

Both of my pieces are inspired by my hometown, the always windy and architecturally hypnotic city of Chicago. The oil painting depicts Chicago in the very beginning, when the place that was to become Chicago were tranquil fields of the chicagoua plant (*Allium tricoccum*), a plant that inspired the name of Chicago. My other piece of artwork is depicting Chicago as a tiny planet, where the Sears Tower is shown as the focal point. It shows Chicago to be the City of Big Shoulders as well as conveying the motto of Chicago, "Urbs in Horto" (City in a Garden).

Work:

Title: Field of Chicagoua

Year Made: 2014

Size: 14" x 18"

Materials: Oil on Canvas

Price: \$150

Title: Tiny Planet Chicago

Year Made: 2017

Size: 11" x 9"

Materials: Digital Artwork

Price: \$50

Title: The Green Man

Year Made: 2017

Size: 14" x 12"

Materials: Oil on Canvas

Price: \$400

Contact:

Epifanio Monarrez
epifaniomonarrez@gmail.com
epifaniostudios.com
Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Epifanio Monarrez is a graphic designer, photographer, muralist, and visual artist born and raised in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Digital Media Technology from Columbia College Chicago.

Epifanio enjoys photography and creating digital and aerosol art as well as art produced through traditional media such as oil and acrylic paints, pastels, charcoal, pencil, ink, and watercolors.

He has advanced his graphic design and artistic abilities through years of experience and has showcased his talents at several galleries and events. He is currently developing a newfound passion for photography, which stemmed from his love of graphic design. Epifanio's influences mostly arise from nature and urban settings.

Work:

Title: In My Own World
Year Made: 2017
Size: 16" x 20"
Materials: Framed Photo
Price: \$80 (framed) \$30 (unframed)

Title: Stolen Moments
Year Made: 2017
Size: 16" x 20"
Materials: Framed Photo
Price: \$80 (framed) \$30 (unframed)

Title: Reminding Me
Year Made: 2017
Size: 16" x 20"
Materials: Framed Photo
Price: \$80 (framed) \$30 (unframed)

Title: Resurrection: Collab w/ Miguel Del Real
Year Made: 2017
Size: 4' x 4'
Materials: Acrylic and Aerosol Spray Paint on Wood
Price: \$1,500

Contact:

Erika Doyle

(773) 957-8617

erikaestefaniadoyle@gmail.com

erikaestefaniadoyle.com

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Erika Doyle has been painting since the age of fifteen. She emigrated from Argentina in 2000 and achieved a BA in political science and an MA in public policy from Northwestern. Erika's artwork is inspired by pre-Columbian cultures with samplings of primitive folk art from other nations combined with elements of Indian, Japanese, Mayan, Argentine tango and other cultural heritages.

Artist Statement:

In a mix of bright colors and different techniques, my artwork is inspired by pre-Columbian cultures with samplings of primitive folk art from other nations combined with elements of Indian, Mayan, Argentine tango and other cultural heritages. My experience, living among Chicago's multicultural community has allowed me to interact with a variety of people from many parts of the world. I believe that living in this city broadens one's artistic perspective, opening the door to opportunities for learning and appreciating other cultures.

My interest in this project for Chicago's 180th birthday is a personal one. As a city commuter and active member of the Portage Park and Avondale artistic communities myself, I feel that it is my duty to contribute to the beautification of my surrounding neighborhoods. Chicago has served as an inspiration to my work, including work I did for the "Horses of Honor" project initiated by Agency 360 and the Chicago Police Memorial where I contributed a horse to the auction.

I believe that my contribution to this project would be well suited for the event as it relates to the city's incredible architecture and spirit.

Work:

Title: Chicago Tulips

Year Made: 2015

Size: 30" x 40"

Materials: Acrylic, Ink, Collage

Price: \$1,500

Title: Chicago Bean

Year Made: 2015

Size: 8" x 10"

Materials: Acrylic, Mixed Media

Price: \$130

Contact:

Estela Vega
evega73114@gmail.com

Artist Profile:

After receiving her BFA in Photography from UIC, Estela enjoyed a long career as a photo editor for Getty Images. After changing gears in 2014, she is finally getting back to her re-ignited passion for photography. A purist at heart, Estela enjoys photojournalism, street photography, and fine art portraiture.

Artist Statement:

I was on my way home from work last summer when I turned my head and noticed the open fire hydrant. I took another route home as I had to capture this moment. It instantly reminded me of my childhood and the fun we had getting wet during the steamy Chicago summers when open fire hydrants were prevalent throughout the Little Village neighborhood.

Work:

Title: Summer in the City
Year Made: 2016
Size: 10" x 12"
Materials: Digital Photo
Price: \$50

Contact:

Guillermo Monarrez

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memofilms.com

instagram.com/memofilms

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Self - taught Chicago based videographer, photographer, producer, director and editor. He has produced, directed and edited music videos, documentaries and commercials. Memo has also had the opportunity to work in a variety of journalism assignments that have been aired all over the world. His photography has been published in local news papers and nationwide magazines.

Artist Statement:

All photographs were taken in 2016 during a helicopter ride with Vertiport Chicago.

Work:

Title: Above Chicago: Soldier Field

Year Made: 2016

Size: 16" x 20"

Materials: Framed Photo (Luster)

Price: \$100 (framed) \$50 (unframed)

Title: Above Chicago: The Magnificent Mile

Year Made: 2016

Size: 16" x 20"

Materials: Framed Photo (Luster)

Price: \$100 (framed) \$50 (unframed)

Title: Above Chicago: John Hancock

Year Made: 2016

Size: 16" x 20"

Materials: Framed Photo (Luster)

Price: \$100 (framed) \$50 (unframed)

Contact:

Isaac Israilevich
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echoesofchicago.org
Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Isaac was born in Ohio and moved to Chicago before he turned one. Since then, he has lived in Skokie for seventeen years, Australia for five months, and Chicago for twelve years. Chicago will always be his home.

Having graduated from college in 2010 with degrees in English and Secondary Education, Isaac has been an educator ever since. He has also been other things. For one, Isaac has become increasingly inspired and humbled by the growing number of excelsior artists, creatives, and entrepreneurs he has worked with since the beginning of his involvement with Echoes of Chicago.

Isaac will never forget the founder of Echoes approaching him about six years ago, shortly after they had become friends, and saying, "I feel like you could use a creative outlet, wanna join Echoes?" He still puzzles over this occurrence, but makes more and more sense of it as time goes on.

Artist Statement:

When I was little, my Dad gave me a piece of magnifying glass that he framed in wood. He taught me how to use it to harness the sun.

The first time I remember creating something "real" with this gift was when I was still little. My sister and I decided to give our Grandma a gift, so my sister drew a simple Jewish star and wrote something in Hebrew on a piece of wood, then I used the sun to add permanence to her design. Since then, a few similar instances had occurred, until we made our mom a birthday gift. This time my sister drew something intricate, and I ended up realizing I could create more detail than I thought...

Because of the artistic theme of this event (*Chicago in all its interpretations*) and the origins of this craft (my Dad-of Latvian descent; my Grandma-of Polish descent; my Sister, Mom, and self-who reside in Chicago), it only made sense to me to create what you see before you.

Russian pronunciation: Chee Cah Go
English pronunciation: Shih Cah Go
Polish pronunciation: Chee Tsah Go

Work:

Title: *Shih Cah Go*
Year Made: 2014
Size: 30" x 30"
Materials: Found Wood and Frame, Chain & the Sun
Price: NFS

Contact:

Jenn Whitehead

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Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

A self taught painter that finds inspirations from the everyday. From music, pictures, colors, to Chicago itself. Mostly working with acrylic paints to create pin ups and portraits. With a balance between strong color choices, realism, and surrealism to create the pieces.

Artist Statement:

The idea of the viewer to look at the portraits and think 'I either want to be them or with them.'

Work:

Title: Meh

Year Made: 2016

Size: 12" x 12"

Materials: Acrylic on Canvas

Price: \$60

Title: Distraught

Year Made: 2017

Size: 12" x 9"

Materials: Acrylic on Canvas

Price: \$100

Contact:

Jillian Kennedy

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Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Jillian is a fine art visual artist currently residing in a south suburb of Chicago. She graduated from the American Academy of Art (Chicago) in 2015 with a BFA in Life Drawing and since, has continued her creative career as a freelance artist. For most visual artists like Jillian, it is a natural instinct to become a quiet, yet conscious observer of the people and places they're surrounded by. Living in a relatively quiet suburb while having a daily agenda in the city has allowed her to experience two totally different environments on a regular basis, and it is this relationship between the quiet suburban and the busy industrial worlds that is at the core of her work. Jillian has been in numerous art shows throughout the Chicago-land area and continues to find inspiration for her work in numerous ways every day; the hunt for creation is never over.

Artist Statement:

My identity as an artist is linked to the visual world. Having an agenda in the city has allowed me to identify one area of inspiration I gravitate towards. Taking on the city as my subject matter seemed natural. I have always been awestruck at all the magnificent, towering Chicago architecture in The Loop, but it wasn't until I started commuting to and from the city on a daily basis that I realized just how inspired I was by it. At this point in my career, my focus is on the delivery of how I perceive the structural makeup of urban locale. Since graduating from art school, I've consciously strayed from academic strategies and focus more intently on the delivery. The "State Street" series is my first of many attempts to produce a cohesive, yet liberated body of work after completing my academic career. With my use of repetition of line work and cross-hatching, and the play of lights and shadows that mimic the city's architecture, I'm attempting to recreate photos I've taken with a creative, mindful twist. Eliminating the pressure to enforce academic excellence has given me the freedom to explore different levels of satisfactory completion. This process has liberated me not only in my artistic career, but in my personal life as well, to think outside the box and remind myself that sometimes, rules are meant to be broken.

Work:

Title: State Street: I

Year Made: 2017

Size: 8.5" x 15.5"

Materials: Graphite

Price: \$300

Title: State Street: II

Year Made: 2017

Size: 8.5" x 15.5"

Materials: Graphite

Price: \$300

Contact:

Jonathan Carradine

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Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Jonathan Carradine is a multi-disciplined artist and illustrator born and raised in the West Humboldt Park neighborhood in Chicago. His interest in art began at 9 years old and he has been creating ever since. He has experience in drawing, painting, digital and traditional illustration, animation, and graphic design. His personal work is inspired by his life experiences, the city of Chicago and pop culture.

Carradine creates all of his work with a fiery passion and drive, dedicated yet approachable in the process. In recent years, his artwork has been displayed throughout Chicago in various exhibitions. As a member of the EXPO Collective, his work has been shown alongside its very talented members in fun and charitable shows. His commercial work has been used for flyers, display pieces, and book covers in recent years.

Carradine has received many accolades throughout his career. At John Marshall Metro High School, he won Artist of the Year recognition in 2005, created the cover and illustrations for the High School Year Book in 2008 as well as backdrops for school events. His Charcoal Drawing of Kedzie & Madison Ave. from his A.P. Art class was purchased through an Art Purchase Program in 2007 and still on display at Marshall to this day.

Carradine was also a part of the advance apprentice animation team with Gallery 37 that won an International Film Festival Award in 2007 for the film "Planet Chicago" in a teen film category. His most recent award was from Behance for his illustration portfolio in 2015 at their portfolio review.

When he isn't creating in his sketchbook or designing a page layout, Carradine tries to help others whenever he can. He was a volunteer with After School Matters/Gallery 37 in various ways from being a greeter to helping select the right programs for teens. He also taught an animation and illustration workshop for teens recently with YouMedia— Richard J. Daley Branch. He plans to create and host more art workshops in the future.

Carradine's goals as a creative is to find and work on challenging projects, create quality work to the best of his abilities and find ways to give back to the community through his craft and action.

Artist Statement:

My two pieces I've had created was a tribute to two Chicago legendary figures. One of the two pieces was a tribute to Harold Washington, Chicago's first African-American Mayor. Harold was not only the city's 41st Mayor, he was a veteran, a senator and House Representative. He was Mayor from 1983 to 1987, when he passed away in office. One of his major accomplishments as Mayor was making Chicago "a Sanctuary City" for undocumented immigrants to live and have access to city services without fear from the government to remove them. He believed in working together as one city to achieve our common good and our common goals. His legacy is still alive as the Main Public Library in Chicago is named after him. Washington also has a city college under his name. My second piece is the Founder of Chicago, Jean Baptiste DuSable. DuSable was a Haitian man who traveled from France to New Orleans before traveling up north toward Chicago. He

was declared the first settler in the city's history. He created a trading post of farmed produce and goods for those who traveled in throughout America during the 1770s-90s. DuSable has a bust at the northern part of the Chicago River, where he and his family lived at and has a bridge, a school and a museum in his name.

The reason behind doing the tribute to both figures is from reading about the city's history as a young kid and a Chicagoan. These two had incredible backgrounds and inspired me to this day.

Work:

Title: Harold.

Year Made: 2016

Size: 11" x 14"

Materials: Mixed Media on Bristol Board

Price: \$80

Title: Dusable.

Year Made: 2017

Size: 9" x 12"

Materials: Mixed Media on Bristol Board

Price: \$85

Contact:

Jose Torres

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Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Jose Torres is an Urban Artist born and raised on the south side of Chicago. Much of his art is inspired by his life experiences and his love for the windy city, Chicago. Many of his pieces express his love for the city and his fine interpretations of the Chicago skyline. He is also very passionate about influencing others to be creative and create art especially the youth. He strongly believes that we are all creative beings and magic can happen when paper meets ink.

In addition, Jose has participated in various art shows throughout the city of Chicago. His work has been highlighted on Capture my Chicago in 2013. Jose was also showcased for his community mural in The Brighton Park Life newspaper.

Artist Statement:

My inspiration for this piece was Chicago as being the windy city. My intention was to create the skyline in a way that shows how the city adapts to the wind and whatever comes its way, whether it be violence, poverty, under resourced schools, cold, wind or frost.

I chose to submit this piece because it illuminates the windy city we live in and highlights how resilient it is to all its problems. Since art takes time to create, this piece has taught me patience and anticipation for my last strokes and the finished product.

Work:

Title: The Windy City, Take Me Where The Wind Blows

Year Made: 2016

Size: 24" x 30"

Materials: Acrylics, Deco Markers, Woodcraft Markers, Indian Ink, Montana Spray Paint on Canvas

Price: \$240

Title: The Windy City, Below Zero

Year Made: 2017

Size: 30" x 24"

Materials: Acrylics, Deco Markers, Woodcraft Markers, Indian Ink, Montana Spray Paint on Canvas

Price: \$300

Contact:

Joslyn Vosta

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attractedtoghosts.com

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Joslyn is a graphic designer from Nebraska who is currently living in the heart of Logan Square focusing on various methods of print making. Her work as a graphic designer have been featured with companies such as Hot Topic, Barns And Noble, Alternative Press, and The Chicago Tribune. Her strengths in the fine arts are primarily relief printing with wood and linoleum blocks.

Artist Statement:

Music has always been a huge inspiration in my life and the majority of my work with relief printmaking has been spawn from lyrics of my favorite songs. I enjoy taking literal words and making them into something visual and instantly recognizable to those who are familiar with the songs. As an artist, my work has changed drastically over the years and I've bounced around from medium to medium and now is the first time in my life I've felt that I've found my true calling. Now is also the time in my life that I've found complete contentment in who I am and without effort my work has subsequently reflected this. It's comforting to look at my work and think about the emotions I was feeling when I made verses before I would dwell on the negative emotions tied to things I was making.

Work:

Title: Gus's Beginning

Year Made: 2017

Size: 9" x 12"

Materials: Block Print Ink, Black Ink, Block Printing Paper

Price: \$50

Title: J Names Only

Year Made: 2017

Size: 7" x 5"

Materials: Block Printing Ink on Strathmore 300 Series Printmaking Paper

Price: \$35

Title: Blackout

Year Made: 2017

Size: 5" x 7"

Materials: Block Printing Ink on Strathmore 300 Series Printmaking Paper

Price: \$45

Title: Cramps

Year Made: 2017

Size: 7" x 8"

Materials: Block Printing Ink on Strathmore 300 Series Printmaking Paper

Price: \$35

Title: Little Pad

Year Made: 2017

Size: 7" x 5"

Materials: Block Printing Ink on Strathmore 300 Series Printmaking Paper

Price: \$35

Title: Speed Runs

Year Made: 2017

Size: 8" x 10"

Materials: Block Printing Ink on Strathmore 300 Series Printmaking Paper

Price: \$35

Contact:

Linda Horton
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etsy.com/shop/LindaHortonPhoto
Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Linda was born a photographer, and feels blessed to live in a city that provides endless subject matter, and backdrops that are both ever-changing and timeless. When she's not taking pictures, you can find her walking her crazy dog, writing haiku on public transportation, or whipping up a batch of her legendary brownies....but she's usually taking pictures.

Linda lives in Chicago's South Loop neighborhood with her dog, Sunny.

Artist Statement:

Through my work, I hope to convey the gratitude that I feel for the great city of Chicago. Every single day there is something new and exciting to see, as well as different ways to look at ordinary things. While I share my vision through photography, it is my intention for the viewer to absorb the same gratefulness and joy that I feel. Wayne Dyer said "When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change." I would love nothing more than for people to see things in a different way after viewing my work.

Work:

Title: Blue Lady
Year Made: 2015
Size: 20" x 16"
Materials: Framed Photo with Glass
Price: \$125

Title: Newspaper
Year Made: 2014
Size: 20" x 16"
Materials: Framed Photo with Glass
Price: \$125

Title: Chicago Theater Marquis
Year Made: 2016
Size: 20" x 16"
Materials: Framed Photo with Glass
Price: \$125

Title: Ice Cream Truck
Year Made: 2015
Size: 20" x 16"
Materials: Framed Photo with Glass
Price: \$125

Title: Motor Row Water Tower
Year Made: 2013
Size: 20" x 16"
Materials: Framed Photo with Glass
Price: \$125

Title: Fountain Face
Year Made: 2016
Size: 20" x 16"
Materials: Framed Photo with Glass
Price: \$125

Title: Pink Shoes
Year Made: 2014
Size: 20" x 16"
Materials: Framed Photo with Glass
Price: \$125

Title: Bus Stop
Year Made: 2016
Size: 20" x 16"
Materials: Framed Photo with Glass
Price: \$125

Contact:

Lucio Vergara

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instagram.com/lucioprestigephot

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Lucio Vergara is from the south side of Chicago. He graduated with a degree in computer engineering from Devry University and proceeded to also working for Devry University. He is very passionate about photography. With a determination of learning on how to use a camera, he learned everything from trial and error. After five years he became a published photographer in RPM Magazine for their December issue of 2015. Lucio in his free times like to spend time with friends and trying new restaurants in the city. He also loves to play video games online with friends and kill noobs.

Artist Statement:

I have been exploring Chicago ever since I was in high school. I would go to all these great locations but never actually document anything. My parents would define Chicago by going to the sears tower and that was it. Chicago ended at the sears tower and there are other people that have lived here for years that think the same. As an artist we tend to think a certain place is played out or overdone. However, there are people that have never seen that perspective and might inspire them to go and check it out themselves.

The pieces that you see here today define the views that Chicago can provide to someone that is not familiar with the city. My inspiration is the people of Chicago that live here and not know where to go see an amazing view of the city. That is what keeps me going when I am out late snapping pictures. When someone tells me "Where is this"? "I have never seen this side of city." That is what keeps me inspired to keep documenting the city of Chicago.

Work:

Title: Mixed Emotions

Year Made: 2016

Size: 16" x 20"

Materials: Wood Frames

Price: \$80 (framed) \$30 (unframed)

Title: Poem of Lights

Year Made: 2016

Size: 16" x 20"

Materials: Wood Frames

Price: \$80 (framed) \$30 (unframed)

Title: Traffic Jam

Year Made: 2016

Size: 16" x 20"

Materials: Wood Frames

Price: \$80 (framed) \$30 (unframed)

Contact:

Maxwell Emcays

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emcays.com

instagram.com/stringtheoryemcays

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Maxwell Emcays is a Chicago based multidisciplinary creative who began his journey creating digitally born work, knowing a t-shirt as his only canvas. The t-shirt presents itself as an allegory that references the social structure that his work seeks to navigate.

Stylistically, he references abstract expressionism, pop art and Afrocentrism. He channels his making process and rendering to echo the underlying reference to the metaphor of the t-shirt.

His work has been seen in Miami Art Basel, Chicago galleries, the DuSable Museum, private collections and highlighted on NBC's "Making a Difference."

Artist Statement:

This body of work seeks to capture sporadic energy while creating a portrait. Iconography and typography meet in order to maintain control of the visualization and evoked meaning.

This piece underlines the meaning of former President Obama. He set qualities for which he will be remembered: his integrity, decency, grace and compassion. Obama symbolizes HOPE in Chicago and the world.

Work:

Title: HOPE

Year Made: 2017

Size: 40" x 40"

Materials: Wood and Mixed Media

Price: \$2,300

Contact:

Megan Kind

(773) 469-7027

Meganlkind85@gmail.com

artistickind.com

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Megan is a Chicago based artist who studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. These days she is a practicing hair stylist who uses the world around her and the beauty industry as inspiration for her paintings. She displays her stuff at street fests, small galleries, local businesses, and salons.

Work:

Title: Sam

Year Made: 2017

Size: 20" x 16"

Materials: Acrylic, Paint Marker, Pen on Canvas

Price: \$200

Title: Ginny

Year Made: 2017

Size: 10" x 8"

Materials: Acrylic, Paint Marker, Pen on Canvas

Price: \$40

Title: Alex

Year Made: 2017

Size: 20" x 16"

Materials: Acrylic, Paint Marker, Pen on Canvas

Price: \$200

Title: Sonia

Year Made: 2017

Size: 12" x 12"

Materials: Acrylic, Paint Marker, Pen on Canvas

Price: \$100

Contact:

Nolan "The Good Cap'n" O'Neil
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CapnsKustomWorks.etsy.com
instagram.com/CapnsKustomWorks
Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

The Good Cap'n has been creating Art for about as long as he has been alive in the semi-rural/dilapidated-former-industrial areas surrounding Screw City, IL, just a few hours' drive west of Chicago. When not Artifying in the studio or stabbing folks just over the WI border at Art & Soul Tattoo & Gallery in picturesque New Glarus, he is likely plying his skills as a Surveyor of Land as a clever ruse to gather salvage debris from which to create his nonsense.

Artist Statement:

My pieces tend to be created from Found Objects upon which I bash paints or handy debris. Some reflect the world I see, some the world I want to. The best might hopefully capture both.

Work:

Title: Anchor

Year Made: 2017

Size: 6" x 4"

Materials: Tattoo Ink on Wood Panel

Price: \$80

Title: Eyeball Rose

Year Made: 2017

Size: 6" x 4"

Materials: Tattoo Ink on Wood Panel

Price: \$60

Title: Pierced Heart

Year Made: 2017

Size: 6" x 4"

Materials: Tattoo Ink on Wood Panel

Price: \$40

Title: Poly Pride

Year Made: 2017

Size: 7" x 5"

Materials: Tattoo Ink on Wood Panel

Price: \$80

Title: We Did This

Year Made: 2016

Size: 7.5" x 18.5"

Materials: Acrylic on Asphalt Pavement

Price: \$230

Title: 1MF1N3

Year Made: 2017

Size: 6" x 12"

Materials: Enamel on Steel

Price: \$150

Title: Sasstronaut

Year Made: 2017

Size: 2.5" x 3.5"

Materials: Acrylic and Enamel on Wood with Found Frame (Glow in the Dark)

Price: \$120

Title: !?!

Year Made: 2016

Size: 15" x 12"

Materials: Acrylic, Enamel, & Graphite on Wood Panel

Price: \$230

Title: Fearmerica

Year Made: 2017

Size: 30" x 36"

Materials: Enamel on Wood Panel and Found Objects

Price: \$500

Contact:

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Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Oscar Joyo (b.1992, Lilongwi, Malawi). At a young age, he was introduced to art by his mother but his passion grew through animation, comic books, video games and film. He moved to the United States in 2000 from Malawi and lived in South Bend, Indiana where he continued to pursue art to serve as means of expression and communication. After graduating high school in 2011, he moved to Chicago to attend the American Academy of Art and explore the creative Chicago art scene.

Oscar graduated with a BFA in life drawing at the American Academy of Art in 2015. Technical training in traditional drawing skills from the Academy led him to find interests in professional illustration, graphic design, photography, and fine art.

He currently lives in Chicago and has been involved in many artist exhibitions around Chicago. He has also been a part of showcases outside such as The Society of Illustrators student exhibition in New York, Congressional Art Exhibition and Digital Arts Showcase in South Korea.

Artist Statement:

This current body of work is combining aspects of my African heritage and my perception of being an African in current day. As I got older and continue to be, I express the pride of where I'm from by using aesthetics commonly found in traditional art such as patterns, colours, and clothing. I further my expression by using digital painting however completing a piece with traditional media (pastel, acrylic, oil). Through this process, I discover more about myself as well as finding an artistic identity.

Work:

Title: Alchemist VI
Year Made: 2017
Size: 11" x 11"
Materials: Digital and Mixed Media
Price: \$50

Title: Enigmatic
Year Made: 2017
Size: 20" x 20"
Materials: Digital and Pastels
Price: \$75

Title: It Soon Will Be
Year Made: 2017
Size: 17" x 9"
Materials: Digital and Mixed Media
Price: \$50

Title: Aruarian Dance
Year Made: 2017
Size: 29" x 17"
Materials: Digital and Mixed Media
Price: \$75

Contact:

Paul Thompson
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instagram.com/pvtillustrations
Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Born in 1985 just outside Indianapolis, Paul Thompson took to drawing from a very early age. Mixing colors was as big a fixation of his as drawing cartoon characters and studying the artwork in comic books.

Paul's active imagination served to entertain him in a small town and allowed him to create his own world while struggling in school and seeking focus.

The Hope Fiend was born as the center of Paul's imagined world and serves as a look at how people may be reluctant to bring positivity into our own lives and bring change into the world around us.

Paul Thompson is currently living in Chicago as an illustrator and aspiring designer. After a Bachelors Degree in Film and Video he switched gears and started sharing a portfolio of designs and characters, in Coffee shops and local bars. After developing a following he began to think bigger and better.

Now he's setting his sights higher on screen-printing, writing and illustrating various stories to tell us cautionary tales and share humorous observations. He's often dark and playful in his approach and his work is usually very colorful.

Artist Statement:

While Paul's work utilizes strong colors and precise techniques that are often emotive and thought provoking. He's most often exploring themes of heartbreak and the strength it takes to move on.

As violence increased drastically in Chicago recently, he found his voice reflecting on responsibility and holding each other accountable for their actions. As things have become more challenging in our country Paul began to reflect on hope and the unity it will take to prosper. This is shown mostly by the creation and repetition of the Hope Fiend in his work as a character and as an icon.

Over the years he has collected a library of influences that inform my work. Growing up it was Super Man, X-Men and Spawn Comic Books, Sonic the Hedgehog, Mortal Combat, Earth Worm Jim and Super Mario video games and Classic cartoons like Mighty Mouse, Casper and Tom and Jerry. Most recent influences have been Street Art, politics, stoner rock and hip hop and heavy metal that influence the philosophies behind my work.

Work:

Title: Deep Dish Pizza

Year Made: 2017

Size: 15" x 17"

Materials: Ink on Bristol Board

Price: \$100

Title: Goodbye my love

Year Made: 2015

Size: 48" x 24"

Materials: Acrylic on Canvas

Price: \$400

Title: Hot Dog

Year Made: 2017

Size: 15" x 17"

Materials: Ink on Paper

Price: \$100

Contact:

Renata Maliszewski

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renmadesign.com

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Renata is from Krakow, Poland a place filled with rich culture and hard-working, creative people. Her sewing skills began there as well, mending clothing or decorating her home with handmade draperies. She came to Chicago, and never left. A home away from home, she found love, higher education, and finally the time to go back to what she enjoys! With glass beads and her sewing skills, she is able to capture beautiful moments and scenery from the city she now calls home.

She can create custom pieces by request, and creates lovely gifts inspired by the recipients.

You can see more of her creations on her website www.RenmaDesign.com and find out how you can commission your very own unique custom piece.

Work:

Title: J. Hancock Building

Year Made: 2016

Size: 6" x 6"

Materials: Beaded Fabric attached to Canvas, Acrylic Paint

Price: \$70

Title: Trump Hotel

Year Made:

Size: 6" x 6"

Materials: Beaded Fabric attached to Canvas, Acrylic Paint

Price: \$70

Title: Willis Tower

Year Made: 2016

Size: 6" x 6"

Materials: Beaded Fabric attached to Canvas, Acrylic Paint

Price: \$70

Title: Chicago Outline

Year Made: 2016

Size: 4" x 12"

Materials: Beaded Fabric attached to Canvas, Acrylic Paint

Price: \$110

Contact:

Robert Johnson

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cgrayartist.wordpress.com

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

I am a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Art in Chicago, with a focus on Game Art and Design. I enjoy improving my anatomy skills by taking classes in traditional sculpture. Since graduating, I have completed several small freelance projects that have helped people see their vision come to life while simultaneously maintaining and improving my skills. I'm a person that seeks to improve my skills, through critique and collaboration, and is motivated when surrounded by others who want to improve as well.

Artist Statement:

This piece is inspired by two things. The first is an iconic photograph of a woman placing a flower on a soldiers' bayonet (The Ultimate Confrontation: The Flower and the Bayonet). This photo is the direct inspiration for the piece because of the message I feel it conveys. The second, is Echoes of Chicago's mascot, Windy. She is, in recent memory at least, the only personification of Chicago that I've seen. Windy serves as the perfect protector of the city that is claimed to be dangerous and need more authoritative force by certain political parties. Chicago is beautiful and that's what I wanted to show.

Work:

Title: Second City Saint

Year Made: 2017

Size: 16" x 20"

Materials: Print on Canvas

Price: \$80

Title: HBC

Year Made: 2016

Size: 16" x 20"

Materials: Print on Canvas

Price: \$100

Contact:

Zak Zuniga

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[instagram.com/attackofthezak](https://www.instagram.com/attackofthezak)

Commissions available upon request

Artist Profile:

Zak is a freelance street photographer currently residing in Logan Square. He is anticipating graduation from DePaul University and is seeking a major in Graphic Design. His work focuses on the urban and "street" perspective of the city of Chicago with a minimalist point of view. Now being his third time having his work showcased at HBC 2017, he has also partaken several previous exhibits around the city as well.

Artist Statement:

Usually one thinks of Chicago and they think of the Bean, Michigan Avenue, and skyscrapers such as the Hancock. However, the inspiration for the selection of images was to try and view different aspects and parts of the city from a more minimalist, simple, and straightforward point of view. The reasoning for the choice of black and white is to allow the viewer to observe and absorb the theme easier, without the distraction of various colors in the image(s).

Work:

Title: Covered Up

Year Made: 2017

Size: 16" x 20"

Materials: Luster on Photo Paper

Price: \$175

Title: Daydreaming

Year Made: 2017

Size: 16" x 20"

Materials: Luster on Photo Paper

Price: \$200

Title: Apart

Year Made: 2017

Size: 16" x 20"

Materials: Luster on Photo Paper

Price: \$175

Title: No Title

Year Made: 2017

Size: 16" x 20"

Materials: Luster on Photo Paper

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