

Jesse Reno
Portland, Oregon

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Born in 1974, Jesse Reno is a self-taught mixed-media painter. He lives and works in his home studio in Portland, Oregon. He's been drawing since he was five years old, painting and showing his works publicly since 2000.

Selected Exhibitions 2006

January **Blk/Mrkt Gallery** - Culver City, CA
Pi Art Gallery - Kansas City, MO
Unk Gallery - Salt Lake City, UT

February **The Goodfoot** - Portland, OR

April **Brave Art** - Whistler, BC

May **Diesel** - New York City, NY

June **Zeitgeist Gallery** - Portland, OR

November **Backspace** - Portland, OR
Urban Artworks - Atlanta, GA

Selected Exhibitions 2005

A.D. Gallery - San Jose, CA
Adidas Store (Snowboard Show) - Portland, OR
Backspace - Portland, OR
Corridor Gallery - Seattle, WA
Fix Gallery - Portland, OR
The Goodfoot - Portland, OR
Grip Tape Skate Park Benefit - Portland, OR
Jack Fischer Gallery - San Francisco, CA
Local 35 - Portland, OR
Milk Studio - Portland, OR
Popmart - Bethlehem, PA
Vans Custom Shoe Show - Portland, OR
Vinyl Killers 3 - Portland, OR
Zeitgeist Gallery - Portland, OR



Selected Exhibitions 2004

Jack Fischer Gallery - San Francisco, CA
Ahlum Gallery - Easton, PA
Blahblah Gallery - Plano, TX
Eye Candy Studio - Kutztown, PA
Hoodoo Mo Gallery - Hannibal, MI
The Id Gallery - Easton, PA
Monster Design Studio - Cedar Rapids, IA
New American Casuals - Portland, OR
Outsider Gallery - Rockland, ME
Quadrant Bookstore - Easton, PA
Sneaker Pimps Exhibition - Portland, OR
Technicolor - Bethlehem, PA
Zeitgeist Gallery - Portland, OR

Selected Exhibitions 2003 and Earlier

Eye Candy Studio - Kutztown, PA
Hoopla Gallery - Bethlehem, PA
The Id Gallery - Easton, PA
Northampton Comm. Coll. - Bethlehem, PA
Open Space Gallery - Allentown, PA
The Shooting Gallery - San Francisco, CA
Steel City - Bethlehem, PA
Xender Arts - Sarasota, FL

Ongoing Exhibitions

Ad Gallery - San Jose, CA
Beverly S. Kaye - Woodbridge, CT
Brassington Point Gallery - Concord, OH
Chiaroscuro Art - B'Kara, Malta
Hoodoo Mo - Hannibal, MI
Jack Fischer Gallery - San Francisco, CA
Outsider Gallery - Rockland, ME
Pi Art Gallery - Kansas City, MO
Shooting Gallery - San Francisco, CA

Selected Published Work

Fantagraphics Publishing - Fall 2006
A book of classical mythological beasts by contemporary artists from the worlds of comics, skate, rock, sci-fi, 'Fine' Art, etc.

Blk/Mrkt One - June 2006
Coffee Table Book - Featured Artist

Click - Winter 2005
Cover Art for novel

Selected Design & Illustration

Pigwood Skateboards - Ragdoll Fear And Loathing Deck
Santa Fe Reporter - Cover Illustration January 26th
Destructive Clothing - Images for clothing
Zero Boutique - Images as prints and for clothing

Selected Public Art in Portland, OR

Bishops Barber Shop - Commissioned Painting
Laughing Horse Bookstore - Public Mural
Local 35 - Dressing Room Mural
New American Casuals - 20X60Ft Temporary Mural

Selected Press

Kansas City Star - Show Review 2006
Rawvision - Issue #51 2005 - Editorial
Inside Magazine - Issue #1 2005 - Featured Artist
Willamette Week - January 2005
Cedar Rapids Gazette - March 2004





Process.

My art is primitivism in the purest sense, coming from within with strong belief. I strive for a pureness in expression and connection that is beyond language. As in primitive cultures my creations remain pure, free from the concerns of technique, meaning, or concern for what has come before. They come from within, manifesting as expressions of the world like gods created in one's own image.

My work exists for no reason other than to convey an inner struggle for expression. It is simple and direct, open for interpretation, always with purpose. Words hidden, misspelled, or left out just like with our disconnected strings of thoughts that guide the days. Random layers of self introspection and visualization pushing through each other, expanding and growing through trial and error. As time goes on, the paintings thicken with purpose - with each layer a new thought learned, created, confirmed, rethought, re-identified, and tested until it is deemed either true or replaced.

I approach painting with random intentions yet search for a sense of natural order. This paradox is integral to my process, as well as my intentions. I attempt to separate myself from my thoughts and allow them to guide my actions. I generally work on five to ten paintings at any given time, never getting too caught up with any single piece until it nears completion. This limits self-editing, keeping me more honest and prevents me from getting too attached to one idea. I want to follow, not lead, my thoughts. I generally work on pieces in small sessions so that my assessments are new and fresh each time I sit down to paint. It's only in the final stages that I tend to make sense of the imagery and begin to fully understand its meaning.



- Circle** - repetition, a lack of progression, potential madness
- Square** - opportunity, potential progress
- X** - negativity, something to be avoided
- Line** - directness, moving in moments, reacting rather than acting



Statement.

Man's sentience separates him from all other species in the animal kingdom. He cages, exploits, and consumes all species of animal (including his own) for pleasure and power. He avoids his conscience by deceiving himself, distancing himself from responsibility and guilt.

He creates a god to take ultimate responsibility for his actions. He creates angels and devils to both guide him and to blame for the actions he himself can not excuse. He creates 'right' and 'wrong' to justify the rest. And finally, he then uses these concepts to define and control the actions of others who might threaten him.

He seeks to control and secure his life at every turn believing he deserves more with each new day. He works and saves to achieve control over his life, letting the opinions of the masses secure his sense of righteousness.

All along he is caging himself, deepening his own isolation - afraid and confused with the world around him. Personal truth always comes second in a world where all is paid in bills. He's left to fight wars he does not understand and pay taxes to a system he knows only as empire. All the while, everything around him is viewed in terms of money, class, race, control, ownership, laws, gods, morals, and personal success (all that is specific to human kind.)

If he stops to think for himself he will realize he is responsible for his own entrapment. The animals he thinks he is above are truly free, making all their decisions based on personal instinct, the only true right or wrong. Decisions made for basic survival.