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ShawNShawN

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Website: <http://shawnshawN.co>

ShawNShawN is incredibly talented, but don't take our word for it, check out his pieces, they speak for themselves! Read ShawNShawN's interview below!



Name: ShawNshawN

Location: California, US

Genre(s) of art: Painting

What is your media of choice?

Originally, I started learning in oils. Over time I switched to combining oil and acrylic. Currently, I use acrylic and mixed media only. Acrylic gives you the versatility to quickly do layers. Acrylic layers dry in 15 minutes while oil layers can take a week. Plus oil only completely dries after 1-2 years.



Battle of Boyne – 32×45 – Acrylic on Canvas – 2014

Who are your biggest art influences?

One of my styles, Architectural Abstract, I learned most of the technique in college from my art professor Tom Thomas, who would paint his own paintings in class. That was great to see an actual developed style live to jump start the process. Who wants to paint models and landscapes all day? Another artist who inspired me in this style was Augustine Kofie. He started in graffiti and later evolved into a fine art painter. His style incorporates 30 and 90 degree angles and circles, which I incorporated into my work. His website is keepdrafting.com.



Apartheid Abolition – 43×66 – Acrylic on Canvas – 2014

My second abstract style is Metal Mayhem. My first influence in this style was an artist from my old studio Erik Niemann. The interesting thing was I only saw his work, then started trying that style and met him much later even though we had similar friends in common. He studied architecture and in his painting would dump globs of paint and pull it through a toothed craftsman tool over and over, which led to these amazing zigzags of color. He would pump out like 3-5 paintings in one night with this method! His website is erikniemann.com. My 2nd influence in this style came from Gerhard Richter after watching his film on his latest abstract style. In his movie, you can see him using massive metal blades to design the painting and then scrapes back some layers. His website is gerhard-richter.com.



Purge of Palestine – 30×40 – 2014 – Acrylic on Pine Panel

My third style is Political Pop. An important influence for me in this style is Asha Menghrajani, who I painted with actively in my old studio. Her technique involved layering various acrylic materials together, paper and even metal into each one of her paintings. She truly was a master of all acrylic materials. She had a well-established style that helped me quickly get into mixed media painting. For the lightening in this style, I learned from Shephard Fairey, who designed the Hope poster for Obama. I have seen 3 of his shows with his political ironies in his work really pushed me into this realm. One of the triggers as well was watching “Exit through the Gift Shop” filmed by Mr. Brainwash and edited by Banksy. Banksy influenced me to try to push the boundaries although I still haven’t gotten to funny art yet. Mr. Brainwash had one style of breaking records and pasting into paintings. I knew I could easily copy using Banksy’s and Fairey’s stencil methods into the pop imagery that Mr. Brainwash was using. It is one of the easier styles to do actually.



Black Widow in the Garden of Eden – 24×48 – 2014 – Mixed Media on Pine Panel

Another influence is Prabin Badhia with whom I paint actively each week. I don’t paint in his figurative style, but have learned many things on composition, painterly look, color contrast and passion working with him weekly. He truly owns the figurative style completely. His website is prabinbadhia.com. Janet Yelner also influenced me to be completely ruthless when

painting to really get great painting. Of course, in this style you can completely destroy a great painting, which I have witnessed her do in person. Her website is janetyelner.com.



Killer Cowboy Clouds – 24×48 – 2014 –
Mixed Media on Pine Panel

What motivates you in your artistic process?

I love the thrill of getting a painting to its absolute maximum point. When you paint, many times you are struggling through the middle unsure if the painting will turn out right. In many cases, its just persistent that makes the masterpiece. Another thrill is learning some new artists technique well and making it your own. At first you are simply copying, which looks terrible, but once you give it your own touch it really becomes something unusual and stunning. Another important point is to always paint with others. As an artist, you really expand and grow 2-3 times faster learning all the code that goes into their own painting.



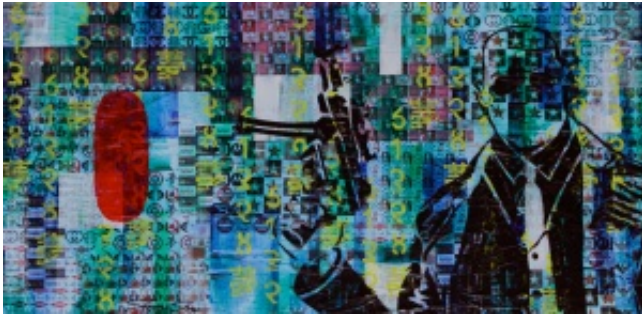
Coke. Its the Real Thing. – 24×48 – 2013 –
Mixed Media on Pine Panel

What impact does your art have on others or society?

My art impact is currently to create amazing abstract works for visual enjoyment as well as creating works that drive the soul.

In my Political Pop style, I try to peel back the layers of the onion on many topics and capture them in different layers. I play between the way the eye actually process imagery by having contrast between the far away image and microscope view of the painting (usually only painters get that close). In this way, the viewer is pulled closer and closer to the image as they try to dissect the meaning. Each painting takes on a huge topic. Some of the topics I have addressed in painting include the cocaine trade and Coca-cola in “Coke. Its the Real Thing”. In my “May the Odds be Ever in your Favor” painting, I tackle the popular movie Hunger Games and meld it into the modern day world’s tendency to the police state and imperial injustices via multinational corporations. Another painting “Riding the Dragon on the Plains of Slaves”, I address the cyberwar between China and the US, who are in the real world big trade partners,

but in the virtual world enemies undermining each other politically or via patent theft.



Ride the Dragon on the Plains of Slaves –
24×48 – 2013 – Mixed Media on Pine Panel

What are your future goals in the arts?

My future goal is to change the style of art in a particular direction. All great artists really established their own styles that others eventually copied. Picasso and Braque created cubism. Warhol and Jasper Johns created Pop art. Richter created this wild abstract style with metal tools. Shephard Fairey and Banksy redefined graffiti to political ends. This should be the goal of any artist to be as great as possible, focused to the extreme and dedicated until the magic really starts to happen. Once you put in the time and brilliance, you make a permanent mark on society and are remembered over the centuries. This is my goal.

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