

beinArt Interview with Kris Kuksi

Jon Beinart - "What inspires you to create art?"

Kris - "What inspires me to create art is finding those things in life that should be brought to our attention, like that of politics, war, famine, discrimination, or just unnoticed beauty and bringing them to life in art."

Jon - "When you create one of your paintings, drawings or sculptures do you plan to communicate a particular message from the outset or does one occur to you as you work intuitively? Also, do you plan your compositions before a beginning piece? I'm interested in hearing about your creative process in general."

Kris - "The overall layout is always planned ahead of time, but the small intricate things are improvised as I go. The ideas mostly are there before I begin but sometimes the subject comes together after a lot of work has already taken place. In the sculptures, there are certain rules. There has to be an axis in which all things follow, meaning if there are organic items (the objects representative of living things), follow their own free form axis. Meaning they can be titled or reclining. But any structural effects such as building or trusses, must be parallel and level. A good example of this is "The Decision", the figure follows its own free form, reclining in a half circular fashion. But the objects seen in the torso area are all upright and level. Any smaller organic figures are also free of this axis."

Jon - "What is your favorite medium to work in and why? I am also curious to find out which medium has been best received by the public."

Kris - "The sculptures for sure. They are a hit right now. And I enjoy doing them more than painting or drawing. Painting is a struggle for me which is good, we all need that. But intuitively I'm a builder and the sculptures satisfy that need."

Jon - "I have noticed you get a lot of feedback on DeviantArt and other web based communities. I have also noticed your work popping up all over the web, in Art Publications and group exhibitions. I have enjoyed watching the Kuksi craze spread like a disease and I feel especially proud to own one of your original drawings. What kind of feedback have you received from from this recent explosion of successes? I am particularly interested to hear of any negative feedback you have received or controversy sparked by your works."

Kris - "Oh, some of the political things I've done piss the conservatives off like I said before. But with that aside I've enjoyed the comments and there seems to be a consistent appreciation for the time spent in these works.

I'm very self-critical and never pat myself on the back, never. I accomplish things very well but I never spend too much time enjoying it. I have to do more, I think that it must be for a grand pinnacle somewhere that I will be at. Maybe it is only to inspire people to change things in this world. Money is nice and it helps to do the next big thing, but I do this out of selfless motives. I'm proud of the work but I know that I always have to continue making it and getting better. I'm in a prison so to speak, I am one who won't enjoy a nice married life with children. I won't enjoy a relaxing vacation in the Bahamas. I have to be getting this stuff out. I'd say I'm like the old cliché of walking the fine line of madness. So it is very very nice to see the comments and praise and it helps to keep going through rough times. So that is my rant."

Jon - Has politics always been a major theme in your work or has it grown since Bush came into power? I noticed your recent drawing of George bush (and must commend you on how striking and powerful the image is). I've also noticed that war has been a recurring theme in your sculptures. Are you very concerned about the future of the world? Is this something that keeps you up at night?"

Kris - "Yes, I've gotten a lot more political since Bush has been in office. I'm concerned about it because of what the rest of the world thinks about Americans. I guess I want to let people of other cultures that not all Americans follow Bush's foot steps so blindly. War is something I am always fascinated with, and it has been a part of human history from early man. I like to probe into this aspect of psychology, and the irrational motives we have that create it. Aggression is something that isn't exactly inborn in us, but learned. We teach our children to hate and have biases towards other humans of differing beliefs and religions. In turn, it is loyalty that drives one to fight a war.

So here is the future upon us, war is present more than ever. The climate is fragile and changing rapidly. What happens in say 50 years? Scary to think about."

Jon - "On a much lighter note. Does humor play a big part in your art? I may be wrong, but I interpret some of your works as dark satire. Perhaps I am just sick "

Kris - "Yes, dark satire is a perfect way to describe it. I tend to have a dark sense of humor when it comes to life. So many things are dark in our times, it is no wonder so much art is reflecting this. In fact we tend to make fun of how awful things are. But humor is a great way to expose something without coming across as crass."

Jon - "So what happening next in the world of Kuksi? Do you have any upcoming shows? Please do tell."

Kris - "I plan to do a book for next year, complete with my broad range of work but also an autobiographical publication. As for exhibits later this year, there are a few art fairs I hope to be involved in that are in Europe, as well as solo show at the Strychnin gallery in October in Berlin. I have a few ideas for large scale work, so those will most likely manifest in the coming months."