



General Artist Statement

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My work is largely shaped by my life experiences. Both in the technical and formal aspects as well as the subjects. My life in the military, travels, conversations, and observations of people provide inspiration. After receiving a degree in desktop publishing and spending some time in college studying art, I enrolled at a blacksmith school. There I became comfortable manipulating metal and learned a trade that would influence the way I approach art. I would later combine these skills into my main work flow, along with my experience working for and then owning a vinyl sign business. I'm versatile in mediums such as metal, vinyl and acrylic sheets but more often reach out for black India ink on white substrates or saturated gouache. High contrast as well as sharp edges fill my work.

What has most influenced my art making is my time spent in the military. As a jet engine mechanic in the Air Force, I began to see the art that I create is like a machine. I began approaching art as I would the engines I maintained. I assess the problems before hand, refer to a written directive; with a prescribed limited amount of tools and set amount of time begin solving the problem. It is efficient, it must be to suit me. If I am working on a piece and it is not efficient then it is filed away and a new one is begun. Before the Air Force my work ethic was poor with low production and a sense of spinning my wheels. I then put discipline to my work; gaining an edgy and a domineering approach to art. It taught me how to handle adversity and make the most out of what you get. It taught me that I am in control, not the paper.