



Joe Kabriel

Artist Statement

The contemporary art scene is as diverse as it has ever been in its history. From shock artists such as Damien Hirst, to the traditional art of Janet Fish, from recognition of multicultural art, and to the gender bending performance artists, this multiplicity leaves an abundant amount of room for today's working artists. It also creates a vast landscape for public taste and reaction.

I consider myself a representational or realist artist. I choose to work with recognizable objects and imagery as a method of building a common language between my art and the public. Like walking around an old antique shop and finding toys that were once played with; there is a remembrance of the past. Fundamentally, an artwork must reach out and communicate. It must relate to or engage the viewer. Simply, a painting can be enjoyed for its use of line, shape, value, texture, color as well as for its identifiable objects or toys. This interaction starts an inclusive communication between the audience and the artwork.

Historically, many issues we face are grounded in the past. It is this duality of the past and present that serves as an inspiration for my work. My paintings express a psychological and symbolic connection to everyday objects and to one's self.

The work becomes a provocative exploration for the viewer as each layer unfolds and at times may ask more questions than it answers.