

Throughout my art, I express the basic freedoms I practice in everyday life: having fun, being alive, and enjoying the ridiculousness of everyday. The term freedom encompasses the right to speak or act without restriction, interference, or fear. In my work, I am fighting for this definition of freedom, using both humor and elements of the outrageous. I look to communicate my personal attitude toward life and art: no rules, no regrets, just the right to be myself all the time, no matter what.

Humor is my tool in connecting to my audience, whoever they may be. My pieces have a subtle campy quality, which makes them accessible to anyone. As well as using humor, there is also a certain amount of shock value in my work that I use to ensure that the viewer remembers what they have seen. I believe there needs to be a certain idea of “Wow” in order to differentiate one piece from the next. I seek to make pieces that are truly awful, by the literary definition: “so impressive as to inspire awe.”

I want to cross the line; the status quo, what the world expects to see. I painted a map from memory, just to compare my knowledge to yours. In the fake neon signs, the expectation of its ability to light up is broken and the viewer is turned back to rethink the situation. By creating a nautical scene to view my video in, the audience becomes included in the story rather than just a spectator. My act as “The Captain” plays with popular notions of the sea, playing up these impressions even though they aren’t correct. These are sincere actions in toying the viewers into some thought outside of their normal realm.

Art is dead without an audience, and I do not want to kill my audience with monotony. If I can hold their attention for a length of a time, hopefully some of my own experiences will rub off and improve their own lives. A revolution would be nice to inspire, but a chuckle is enough to satisfy me.