

To paraphrase the great Homer Simpson, "Art is the cause, and solution, to all life's problems."

Art has played various roles in my life, serving as both an act of despair and a source of self esteem, as a means of financial gain and also a cause of financial strain. It has offered escape from worldly problems while also highlighting them. Through art, I have had the privilege of meeting my heroes, yet have felt inadequate in comparison. Despite the chaos it seems to bring, my art practice has provided a meditative refuge for my ADHD mind and is a giant source of joy.

When you first begin your artistic journey as a kid, you are blinded by the desire to create. After a while, that childlike wonder can begin to flicker but given the correct fuel source the wonder can turn into a blazing wildfire of inspiration! Sometimes the wind blows and takes the fire (you) to places you had no idea you would go. My artistic life has been like that, I have chased my artistic interest like an out of control wildfire.

I graduated from Washtenaw Community College where I studied Graphic Design, drawing and photography. I then earned my B.F.A. from Kansas City Art Institute where I studied Illustration under Hall of Fame illustrator Mark English. I began freelancing while still in college and eventually found myself as a full-time staff illustrator at Colorbok, a paper products company in Michigan. I was an illustrator for about 25 years before giving that up to pursue my love of painting. The uncontrolled wildfire is now a manageable flame. No longer pleasing clients and beginning to focus on pleasing myself with the images I create.

While my artistic focus has at times appeared scattered, my dedication to the craft has remained unwavering. Presently, I am working on a series of paintings exploring themes of who and where I am as an artist. I am painting subjects that I find compelling for a variety of reasons. Those reasons may range from subject matter or trying to capture a sense of light to even a technical challenge like painting glass jars. My approach endeavors to capture the essence of subjects without becoming mired in excessive detail, drawing inspiration from the impressionist and also many contemporary painters. I am influenced by everything around me, light, color, shadows and composition. While Artificial Intelligence begins to mimic the artist it "learns" from I am trying to become a better traditional painter the old fashioned way, through hard work.

My new studio in Ypsilanti Michigan is the center of my creative output. A messy and creative place that houses my collection of paintings, drawings and experiments. I paint there most often with frequent jaunts into the countryside to collect reference and paint from life.

This, then, is my artistic endeavor—an ongoing exploration of self-expression and discovery.

John Dinser 2024

