

THE EAST'S INDEPENDENT SHRED MAG

eastcoast

SNOWBOARDING

KEVIN PEARCE
SEASON OF A LIFETIME

TIM
HUMPHREYS

STEEZY RIDERS CROSS THE COUNTRY WITH
JEREMY JONES

CHRIS ROTAX
GUEST EDITOR

IMMORTAL TECHNIQUE

R. JOHN MURPHY P. AARON BLATT
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THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE

ART

featuring

Jess Graham

Did you show artistic ability as a child? And 2. what or who inspired you to start painting? At what age?

I didn't show ability as a child so much as I showed a relentless persistence and a general disregard for silly rules that said, "Don't draw on the walls." Fortunately my folks gave in, put up newsprint and just let me run around naked in rubber boots painting. There is some really good super8 footage of this somewhere in a closet in northern VT.

Do you paint full time as a living? How many hours a week do you paint?

I've been a full time artist since summer 07. Usually this confession is met with a stink eye. I clarify by saying, full time artist for me means commissioned murals, commissioned portraits, wedding invites, craft shows, selling my greeting cards, teaching snowboarding, leading girls mountain bike camps, never saying no to a project. Full time artist means some weeks are an 80/20 split with lots more time spent on the business end. Some weeks I only paint. Those are my favorite weeks.

Why is painting so important to you? Making art is important to me because I translate my world into patterns and color fields. I have a running dialogue inside my head that converses in lines and gestures and collects memories in full-color-saturated snapshots. The more I paint, the more I see, the closer I observe. If I didn't paint I would seem dull or reserved or disengaged because there really isn't any other way for me to express myself the experience of drinking in the world with my eyes. I'd probably twitch and mutter more too.

When you paint is it like putting yourself in a trance, a better place, a place free of war, genocide, hate, and commercialism?

When I paint and it's a good day (cause there are plenty of oh-my-god-what-is-this-crap-days), I'm focused and sure and at peace like on



Shower Curtain Skirt
2007 oil, paper on wood
24" x 24"



Can you tell me now?
2007 oil, paper, fabric, feathers on wood
24" x 24"



fairy girl, geo hair
2008 acrylic on masonite
8" x 12"



fairy girl, bouffante
2008 acrylic on masonite
12" x 8"

a powder day linking my favorite little woods squiggles, banking a couple blind turns then popping off that sketchy little drop into a pile of fluff. I think when you're experiencing focused peace, it's a transcendence that has some knowledge of the negative, the suffering, the pain of the world and responds not with cynicism or apathy or hatred or indifference, but with color, light, energy, truth, and a sense of joy that embraces the ridiculous delight life can be.

What would you say to young girls out there who want to pursue art as a career?

From my experience as a really insecure, self-doubting girl who is becoming a pretty self-assured woman, I have three words: Believe in yourself, be real with yourself. Feign confidence even if you don't feel it (everybody else does it). Cultivate a strong core-self based on your own experiences and dreams before others' expectations of you. The sooner you realize you're a brilliant queen and most of the world is too busy looking in the mirror at themselves to notice your imperfections, the sooner you can get on with having the most fun possible and reaching your highest potential. Oh, and keep a sketch book.



shiny puffy jacket
2007 oil, acrylic on wood
24" x 24"



save a horse ride a hardtail
2007 oil, paper, string,
fabric on wood
24" x 24"



spring walk, ephemerals
2008 acrylic, paper, fabric
on wood
24" x 24"



top: more things
2007 oil, paper, pabst can,
on wood
24" x 24"

bottom: commissioned portrait
of John Henry and friends,
Washington, DC
2008 oil on wood
24" x 24"

"I translate my world into patterns and color fields. I have a running dialogue inside my head that converses in lines and gestures and collects memories in full-color-saturated snapshots."



pump track
2008 oil, paper, tape on wood
24" x 24"



commissioned mural, Alchemist Pub & Brewery
bathroom doors, Waterbury, VT
2008 acrylic on wood