

UNLOCK YOUR CHILDLIKE IMAGINATION WITH THE

ISECRET DOORS!

COLORING BOOK

2016 EDITION



TALKING
THE
WALL

Introduction

Welcome to the “Secret Doors” coloring book!

This book has been a true labor of love for Just My Height Art Shows® and Talking Off the Wall Magazine. We produced this book as a souvenir piece for the “Secret Doors” Street Art Show, which opened on April 8, 2016, in Miami’s famous Wynwood Arts District and featured the work of 15 of South Florida’s most talented and recognizable street artists and muralists. The show benefited ArtCares for Kids, which brings art activities to children undergoing medical treatment at two children’s hospitals in Miami, Florida.

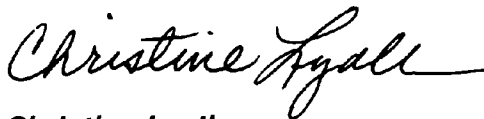
We wanted to create a unique and tangible product that would provide hours of fun, education and entertainment for anyone of any age who picked it up and decided to fill in its pages. We wanted this book to encourage its users to “unlock the doors” to their own imaginations and bring their own interpretation to our artists’ fantastic creations. We hope we achieved this objective.

Just My Height Art Shows and Talking Off the Wall would like to thank the following for helping to make this book possible:

- Major sponsors ***The Florida House Experience, VITAS Healthcare*** and ***Artist & Craftsman Supply*** for their generous financial and in-kind support
- ***Barbara de Varona, of I Am Wynwood***, for preparing the artists’ profiles
- ***Photographer Sandro Abate*** for taking photos of each piece of artwork, as well as providing some of the head shots of our artists

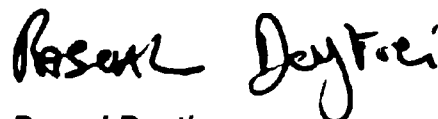
Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



Christine Lyall,

Founder/Creator of Just My Height Art Shows®



Pascal Doytier,

Founder/Publisher of Talking Off the Wall Magazine



"For me, the third-generation gaming system Nintendo has always invoked memories of a simpler era, when gaming technology was still young."

8Bit Lexicon is a hard-core video gamer whose passion for the fantastical digital worlds of the Nintendo Entertainment System, combined with his creative talent, inspired a career in art.

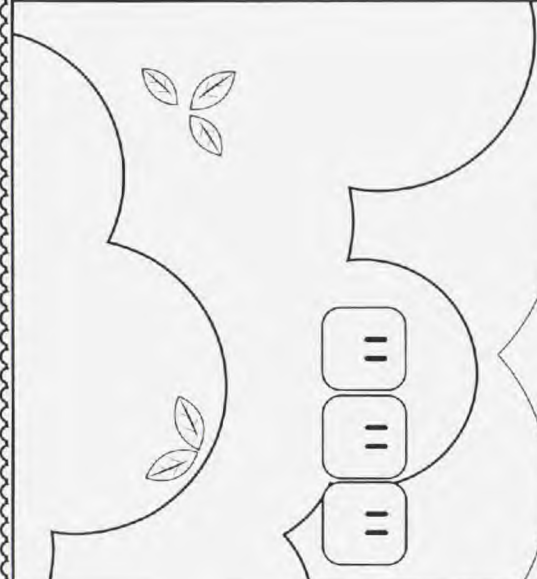
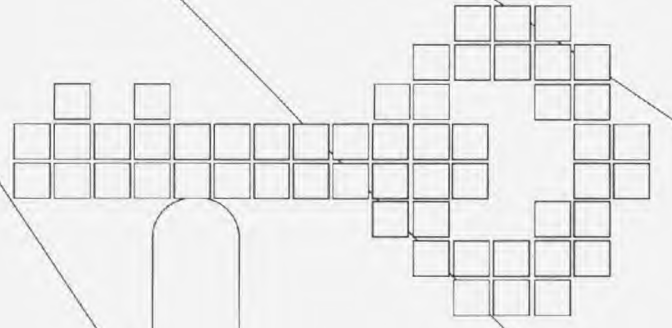
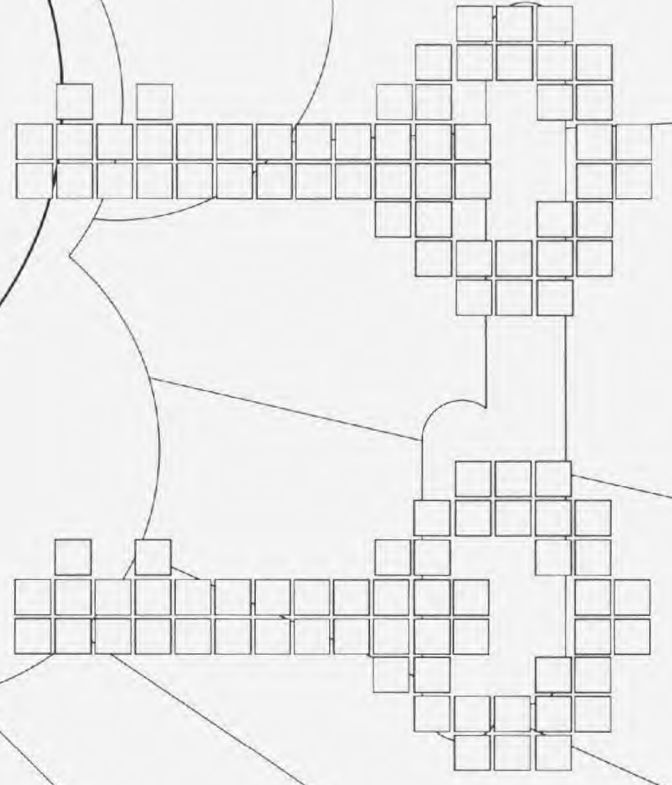
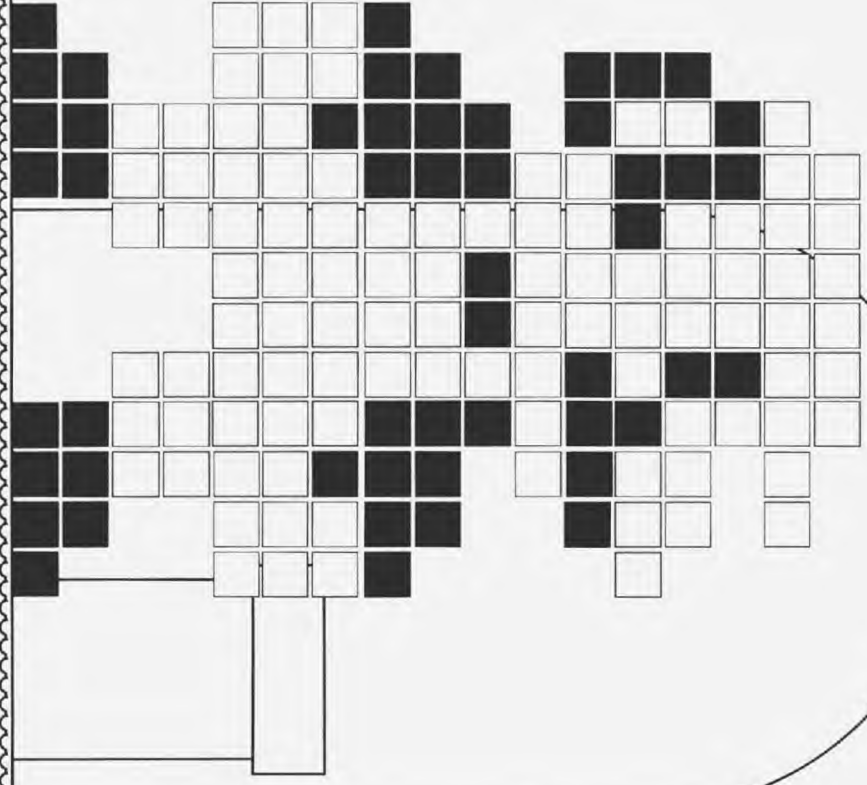
Growing up during the urban decay of the south Bronx in the early 1980s, 8Bit Lexicon—whose name references the graphics capabilities of early video game consoles—found great joy in the hours of exploration and adventures the games provided.

For the artist, the third-generation gaming system Nintendo has always invoked memories of a simpler era, when gaming technology was still young, and the most stressful part of life was doing homework.

He uses a variety of materials, including wood, aluminum and ceramics to recreate the pixelated popular characters and icons of his cherished childhood memories.

Currently based out of Miami, 8Bit Lexicon “ping-pongs” between the Magic City and New York City and hosts regular weekly video game nights at popular Miami bars, including Wood Tavern and Concrete Beach Brewery in Wynwood.

8Bit Lexicon | @8BitLexicon 





"I like to start new works by exploring the possibilities of a single word or emotion."

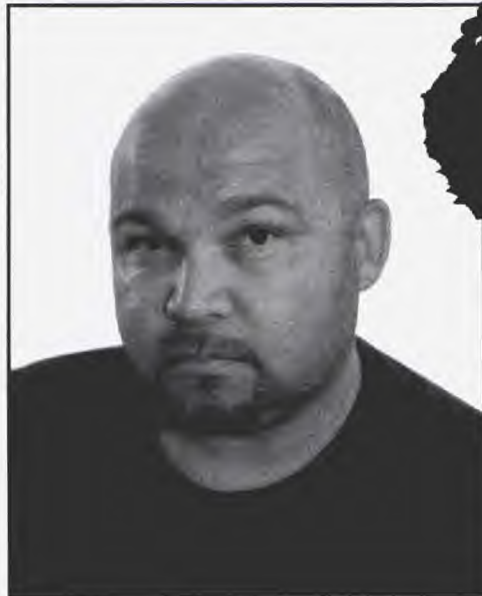
Aquarela Sabol is a Miami-based fine artist, muralist and “visual creator.” Although she attended Columbia College Chicago for fine arts in the late 1990s, she is primarily a self-taught artist. Her preferred medium is oil paint, but she also likes to combine that with less-traditional media for fine art, such as spray paint, textiles, reclaimed wood and found objects.

Aquarela's favorite subject matter is generally portraiture and the feminine form, with a nod to popular culture. She also likes to use text and graphic design elements. As she was growing up, her parents owned a commercial printing company, so design—specifically the combination of imagery and text—was fundamental to how she saw the world. “I like to combine the loose, energetic and compulsive elements of expressionism with cleaner elements of design, which more recently has included text,” she says. “I like to start new works by exploring the possibilities of a single word or emotion, then allowing the painting to evolve on its own.”

Aquarela has participated in numerous group exhibitions both locally and internationally. Her work can be seen in Miami's Wynwood Arts District, Little Haiti and Miami Beach, as well as in Brooklyn, New York, and Tulum, Mexico. She also regularly does site-specific installation work for hotels and restaurants, predominantly in Miami and New York. Aquarela lives in the Little Havana neighborhood of Miami, where she has a studio and a house with a small garden.

Aquarela | @AquarelaArt 





"I'm primarily a fine artist, but I acknowledge the influence of street art in my work and often play with the collision of the two styles with my brushes and palette knives."

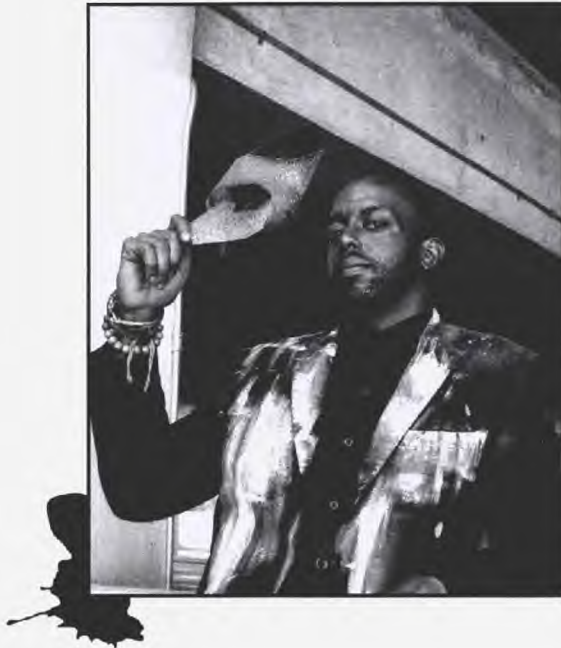
Although he was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, Luis "Style One" Berros was raised in South Florida and now lives and works in Miami. When he demonstrated an ability and interest in art at a young age, his parents enrolled him in art classes at Lesver de Quiros' studio. Working with palette knives and oils on canvas, he developed his skills in application and gained a remarkable sensitivity for color and composition. At Miami Jackson Senior High, Berros refined his craft, further developing his technical skills and growing in his knowledge and appreciation for art history.

In the 1980s, Berros experienced first-hand the power of art without limits, when he got involved with local street-art clubs. This was when he started to experiment with combining his classical artistic training and aesthetic with the large-scale, outdoor backdrops and stylings of street art. Although Berros maintains that he's primarily a fine artist, he acknowledges the influence of street art in his work. He consistently tries to accelerate both forms of art along the same path, documenting—with his paints, brushes and palette knives—their "collision" in each of his works.

Berros has shown at many galleries in Miami and throughout the United States. In 2014, he was among the worldwide pool of talented artists selected for the mural project and school renovation effort at Jose de Diego Middle School in Wynwood. Berros is also a member of Disney Underground, creating re-imagined versions of popular Disney characters in his own personal style.

Luis Berros | @LuisBerros 





"In much of European literature, animals often represent guides, protectors, villains or even demons."

South Florida native Nate Dee (Nathan Delinois) became interested in art at a young age. While his siblings watched television, he preferred to watch his babysitter, who worked as an illustrator for the Sun Sentinel, work on drawings for the newspaper.

Dee was fascinated by how a blank piece of paper became a newly imagined world. His first use of media included colored pencils, markers and pastels. In college, he expanded his palette to include paint.

In his "Masked" series, Dee incorporates animals and other zoomorphic iconography from various cultures, exploring the different meanings that have been attributed to animals in both past and contemporary societies. In much of European literature, for example, animals are often cast as guides, protectors, villains or even demons. Animals play many of the same roles in Dee's artwork.

Dee's work has been featured in various blogs and publications, including Complex, Delve Magazine, WeMerge Magazine, Talking off the Wall Magazine and Miami New Times. In 2014 he was listed by Miami New Times in their Top 10 Miami Artists to follow. He also received honorable mention in the Miami New Times' 2013 Miami Masterminds awards.

Nate Dee | @MiamiNate 





"My high school art teacher gave me lots of guidance, but most importantly, she helped me find my vision."

GG (Gabriel Gimenez) is a Miami-based visual artist from Barquisimeto, Venezuela, whose artistic talents first appeared during his early childhood in the form of doodles. Through his own continued interest in painting and constant practice, his skills developed, and by the end of high school, he was drawing anything and everything he could. Eventually, with the guidance and encouragement of his high school art teacher, GG would learn the necessary skills to become an accomplished artist. "She gave me lots of guidance, but most importantly, she helped me find my vision."

GG is inspired by his personal observations on life. His work often includes references to people, items and themes in popular culture, which he represents in unique and vivid ways using vibrant color and stylized detail. His works have been shown in art fairs, live shows, galleries and private events. Primarily self-taught, GG is a hardworking artist who also has good instincts for business and public relations—qualities that have served the self-employed artist well.

Praised and recognized on an international scale for his work ethic and his dedication to his craft, GG maintains a personal connection with his art and his collectors. These practices have helped him to expand his reach, grow his business and become the renowned artist that he is today.

GG | @GGArtWork 





"I do 95 percent of my lines in free-hand, allowing for some level of experimentation in each piece and keeping my work fresh and dynamic."

Miami street artist Kazilla (a.k.a. "The Vanilla Gorilla") combines fine art and graffiti in her artwork, creating an edgy, colorful fusion between two very different worlds. Some of her imagery includes animals, surreal landscapes and geometric patterns in a spectrum of vibrant colors. She's well known for her live performance art, which includes creating large-scale murals or canvas paintings before large groups of onlookers at festivals, museums and exclusive events for major brands such as Adidas, Converse and Guess.

Working in live environments comes with its share of open critique, distractions and pressures, which Kazilla has artfully turned to her advantage, mastering the art of free-hand and "working" her mistakes — instead of letting mistakes "work" her. Kazilla does 95 percent of her lines in free-hand, thus allowing for some level of experimentation in every piece and keeping her work fresh and dynamic. As a member of the all-female graffiti and street-art skate crew known as "Few & Far," she's a trail-blazer, inspiring new female street artists to explore their own forms of expression and claim their place in the male-dominated genre.

Originally from New Mexico, Kazilla lives and works from her Miami studio and gallery space, brightening the Miami landscape with new art almost daily. She's a highly sought after visual artist who travels often, showing and performing in museums and galleries all over the world. She has exhibited work in New York City, Los Angeles, Washington D.C. and Dubai.

Kazilla | @KazillaTheVanillaGorilla 





*"The world is my teacher,
I've gone everywhere, just
living and learning."*

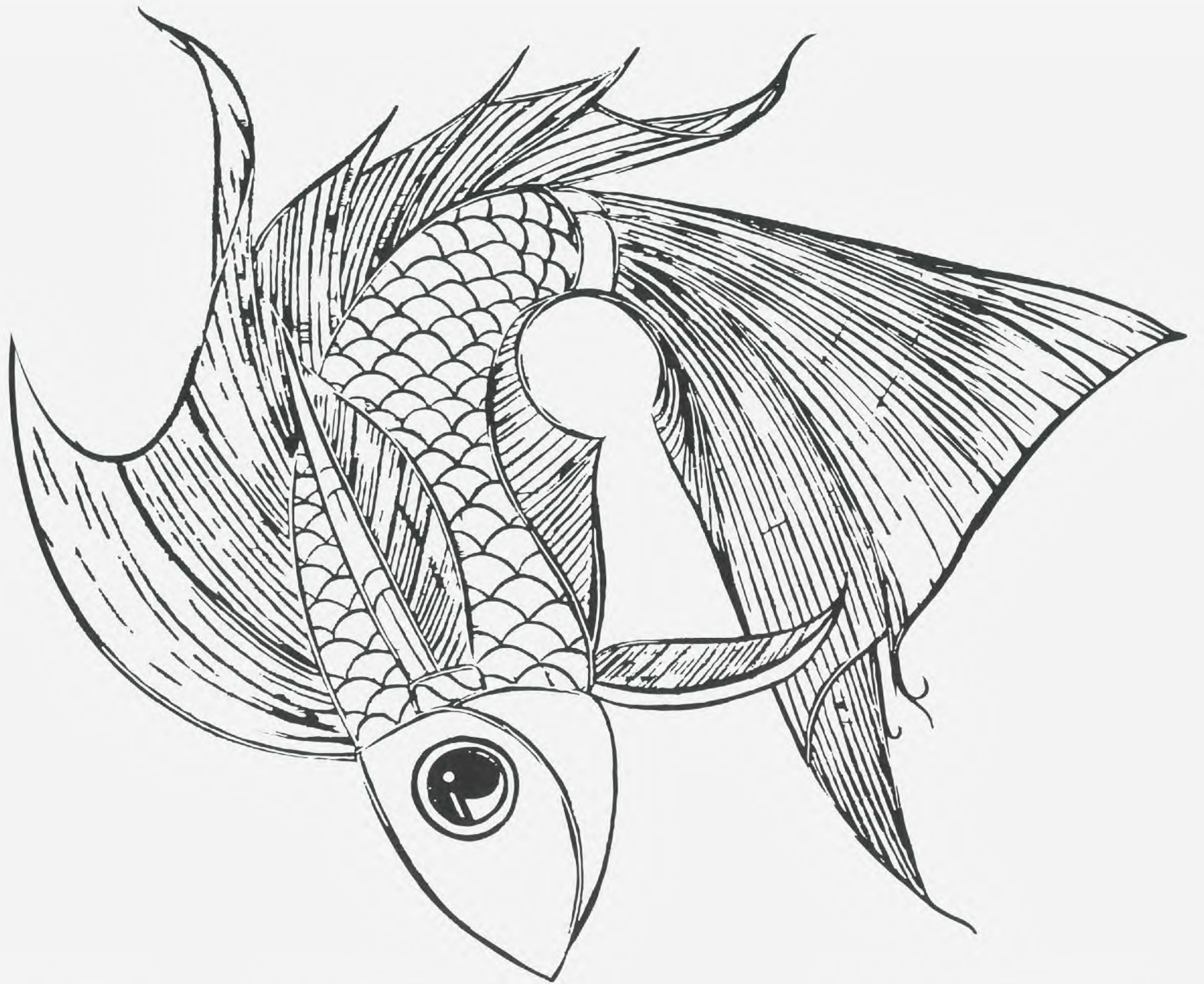


DaveL (David Lavernia) began drawing the way many of us do, with crayons on paper—sometimes walls—and learning to color inside the lines. But in middle-school, when all his friends moved on to sports and video games, DaveL moved on to exploring new art media and materials, not really understanding why the other kids weren't doing the same.

Growing a bit self-conscious about his seemingly peculiar interest, he put away his pencils and papers. But then his sister found a stack of old drawings and insisted he show them to people, and at her encouragement, he entered his first art contest. He was 11 years old.

Born and raised in Miami, DaveL has always been inspired by his tropical surroundings, and while he did study graphic design in college, he gives more credit to his peers, other artists and some unlikely instructors for helping him develop his craft. "The world is my teacher," DaveL shares. "I've gone everywhere, traveling with my work, following art fairs, festivals, and art walks ... just living and learning." In fact, over the past four years, DaveL has visited every state in the United States, including Alaska. DaveL works with a variety of media, including acrylic, oil and spray paints, enamel, oil pastels and mixed media.

DaveL | @DaveL_Art 





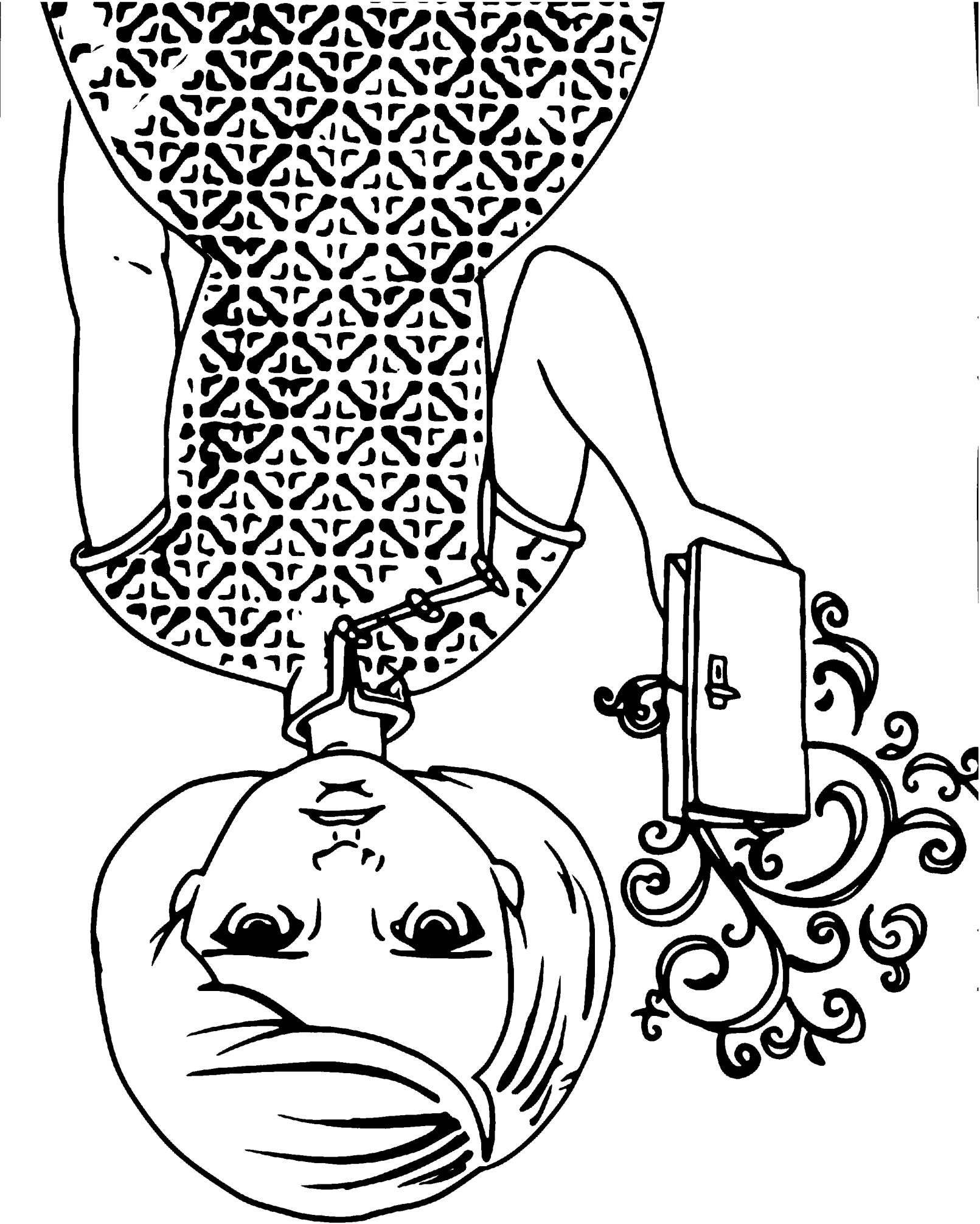
"I chose greys because I wanted to give my paintings a sense of urban-ism."

Dutch artist Monique Lassooij started out as an abstract oil painter, then over the years developed a passion for figurative painting. She attended the Royal Academy for Fine Arts in The Hague and received many commissions for public places in her native country, including at the town hall of the city of Scheveningen.

Lassooij moved to Miami in 2006, where she continued to pursue her career in art. In 2012, she created her first few pieces in her series of paintings rendered in the uniquely limited palette for which she has become well-known: two different shades of grey, white and red. Lassooij chose this particular palette because, growing up with a black-and-white TV, she used to imagine what the people and objects looked like in color, and she wanted to give the viewers of her work a chance to employ their own imagination in a similar way. Lassooij further explains, "I chose greys because I wanted to give my paintings a sense of urban-ism, white, because it represents purity and innocence, and red—the color of passion—to offset the balance, even contradict it a bit."

Lassooij has shown in many galleries and festivals throughout South Florida. She's been featured at special events, including the popular "Wall Brawl" series of live-painting competitions; worked on large-scale murals throughout Miami; and in 2015, she was granted a coveted spot in the seventh All-Media Juried Biennial at the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood, Florida.

Monique Lassooij | @MoLassooij 





"I like to offer viewers an imaginary universe in which the constraints of Man are lifted and anything is possible."

Chicago-born, Miami painter Ernesto Maranje creates visual narratives in his paintings, using animal imagery to develop characters by referencing myths, history and personal experiences.

Many of his characters resemble fish or birds and are often depicted enacting human behaviors. The use of birds is of particular significance to Maranje, who is inwardly hopeful that human evolution will take Man from walking the land to flying the skies. In his work, Maranje offers the viewer an imaginary universe in which the constraints of Man are lifted and anything is possible.

Maranje discovered his passion for painting at the relatively late age of 27, after a debilitating accident rendered him unfit for off-shore duty while serving in the United States Coast Guard in 2010. Driven by a new-found passion, he used his GI Bill to enroll in Miami International University of Art and Design in 2011. He is currently pursuing his BFA in Visual Arts Academic Studies.

Maranje is a resident artist at the renowned Bakehouse Art Complex in Wynwood. His mural work has decorated many South Florida areas, including the flourishing Leah Arts District, Downtown Hollywood and Carols City Middle School in Miami Gardens.

Ernesto Maranje | @ErnestoMaranje 





"My mentor, Ronnie Cutrone, was Andy Warhol's assistant ... and his constant use of bright and fluorescent colors influenced my color palette."

Born in New York in 1966, Miguel Paredes is an artist and urban realist who combines the exhilarating sense of New York graffiti art with the skill and perceptiveness of a truly exceptional artist.

Paredes attended New York City's prestigious Fiorello La Guardia High School of Music and Art— immortalized in the musical and movie "Fame"—in the early 1980s, where his studies in art coincided with the explosion of street culture in the city. Paredes drew inspiration from notorious pop artists such as Andy Warhol and Keith Haring and plunged headlong into the world of graffiti and pop art, taking the name "Mist" as his moniker. Another influential figure in Paredes' artistic career was his mentor, Ronnie Cutrone, who was Andy Warhol's immediate assistant at the Factory during the notorious pop artist's most productive and prestigious years. To Paredes, his mentor's paintings are the essence of pop—colorful, lively and highly accessible. Cutrone's constant use of bright and fluorescent colors influenced Paredes' color palette choices as well.

Paredes came to Miami in the early 1990s and quickly became an iconic figure in the local art scene, opening an art gallery in the Wynwood Arts District, dedicating his talent and vision toward charitable community public art works, and installing mosaic murals at schools and in other public spaces. Throughout his career, Paredes has also continued to exhibit his artwork internationally, with shows in London, China and Seoul, Korea.

Miguel Paredes | @ArtistMiguelParedes 






"My works feature female-empowering images with fresh perspectives on personal experiences and popular culture."

Jenny Perez is a millennial-generation, culturally influenced artist from Miami with international recognition and appeal. Her works feature female-empowering images with fresh perspectives on personal experiences and popular culture.

Perez began her career as a visual artist using primarily acrylic paints on canvas. Over the last seven years, however, her media choices have expanded to include spray paint, indoor and outdoor walls, clothing and fabric (such as for decorative prints for everyday items, including pillows and scarves). Her work has been shown in local and international galleries, has regularly adorned the walls of the famous Panther Coffee in Miami's Wynwood Arts District and might further be enjoyed when Perez paints live at special events and in art venues such as the Wynwood Walls.

Perez is a strong cultural art icon in her community, setting standards of leadership. She has been involved creatively in programs assisting the Susan G. Komen Foundation, the Ronald McDonald House and AT&T via VICE cultural campaigns. She was recently chosen to design the 2016 Miami Marathon medals, which each participant received upon completing the marathon. Perez proudly represents a variety of pro-social efforts, supporting charitable organizations and communities through her art.

Jenny Perez | @JennyPerezArt 

It's always
been a secret ~~and~~
I prefer it this way





"I like to balance chaotic, abstract reflections of urban decay with contrasting, crisp lines and shapes."

Although he is originally from Boston, REMOTE (Jay Bellicchi) has taken his place in the Miami art scene as a dynamic artist influenced by graffiti and graphic design. His father was a successful artist and graphic designer who inspired him at a young age. In the 1980s, REMOTE was further influenced by hip-hop music and its lyrics. In fact, it was within the hip-hop culture that he discovered graffiti art and was given the nickname by which he still goes today.

REMOTE balances chaotic, abstract reflections of urban decay with contrasting, crisp lines and shapes. On canvas, his process is mostly unplanned and spontaneous, intuitively influenced by mood. He uses various media, including latex, acrylic and aerosol paints, markers and sandpaper. When working in the studio, REMOTE'S preferred surface is wood panel, which he can fully manipulate to achieve his desired effects. Incorporating words and letter elements in his design is a final, carefully planned and executed stage of his work. His latest series, entitled "Sprayskull," is a sculptural series that incorporates re-purposed graffiti elements and art-making materials.

REMOTE'S art has been featured in numerous South Florida publications, as well as national and international art books.

REMOTE | @GraffToyz 





"I really like bold, vibrant colors, and I paint mostly animals, to which I often give very humanistic traits."

The ability to express himself freely and daringly through art is at the heart of what Los Angeles-born SURGE (Sergio J. Quinonez) loves most about being an artist. His urban pop paintings and illustrations are bold and vibrant, featuring fun characters—mostly animals to which he gives humanistic traits— that are both brash and inviting. SURGE is inspired mainly by aspects of hip-hop style and culture.

SURGE moved to Miami in 1988. "I was too young when I lived in L.A. to know what I wanted to be, but I always illustrated," he explains. "Eventually, I worked as a graphic designer and was creative director for the last two agencies i was with. My personal art was always a part-time thing." In December 2015, however, SURGE started his own creative agency, Thunderous Genius, Creative House, where he is able to work on his own art as well as continue with graphic design full-time.

SURGE has performed live-painting at high-profile charitable events for several organizations, including the Jason Taylor Foundation, the Christopher Reeve Foundation and Ford Warriors in PINK. He's painted the world-renowned walls of Miami's Wynwood Arts District, and he has worked on a recurring basis as a cartoonist for the Miami New Times. His work has been featured on the cover of Sun-Sentinel's City Link Magazine, as well as in a number of books and publications world-wide.

SURGE | @illsurge 





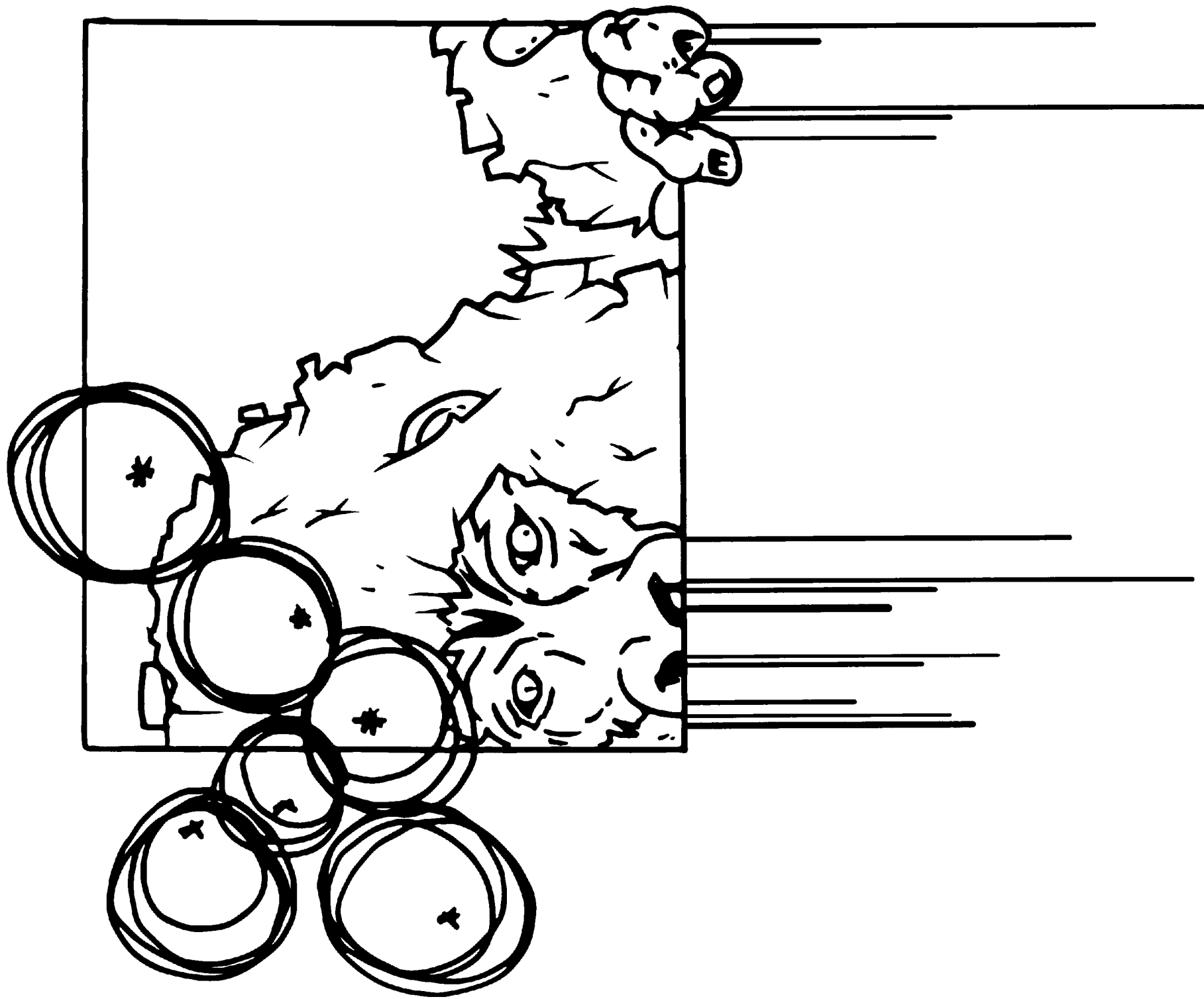
***"I never really vandalized.
But I grew up surrounded by
vandals, studying what they
were doing and being
influenced by their
do-it-yourself attitude."***

Born in 1975 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Ruben Gerardo Ubiera Gonzalez is a neo-figurative artist, known for his strong use of line, graffiti-inspired technique and aesthetic, urban murals, mixed-media pieces and installations—all created with reclaimed objects and found artifacts. He paints and draws in a style considered to be “post-graffitism,” but he prefers to call it “urban-pop,” since he has lived most of his life in urban, populated areas, and most of his inspiration is derived from the interaction between Man and his urban environment.

At the age of 15, Ubiera and his family moved to the Bronx, New York, where he was heavily influenced by the graffiti art that surrounded him, as well as the “vandals” who created it. “I have never really vandalized,” says the artist, “but I grew up surrounded by vandals, studying what they were doing and being influenced by their ‘do-it-yourself’ kind of attitude. I also studied comics, animation, video-games and the like.”

Ubiera’s work includes still-life and portraiture, but he tends to focus primarily on depicting his immediate urban surroundings and everyday complex human emotions using strong and expressive lines and vivid, contrasting colors. His paintings are, on first examination, noted for being charged with “skateboard-isms”—paint drips and the constant presence of graffiti in some shape or form. But, after closer inspection, one notices the detail, the sarcastic contrast, the social commentary and the human struggle that’s felt by the technique and the subject matter.

Ruben Ubiera | @UrbanRuben 






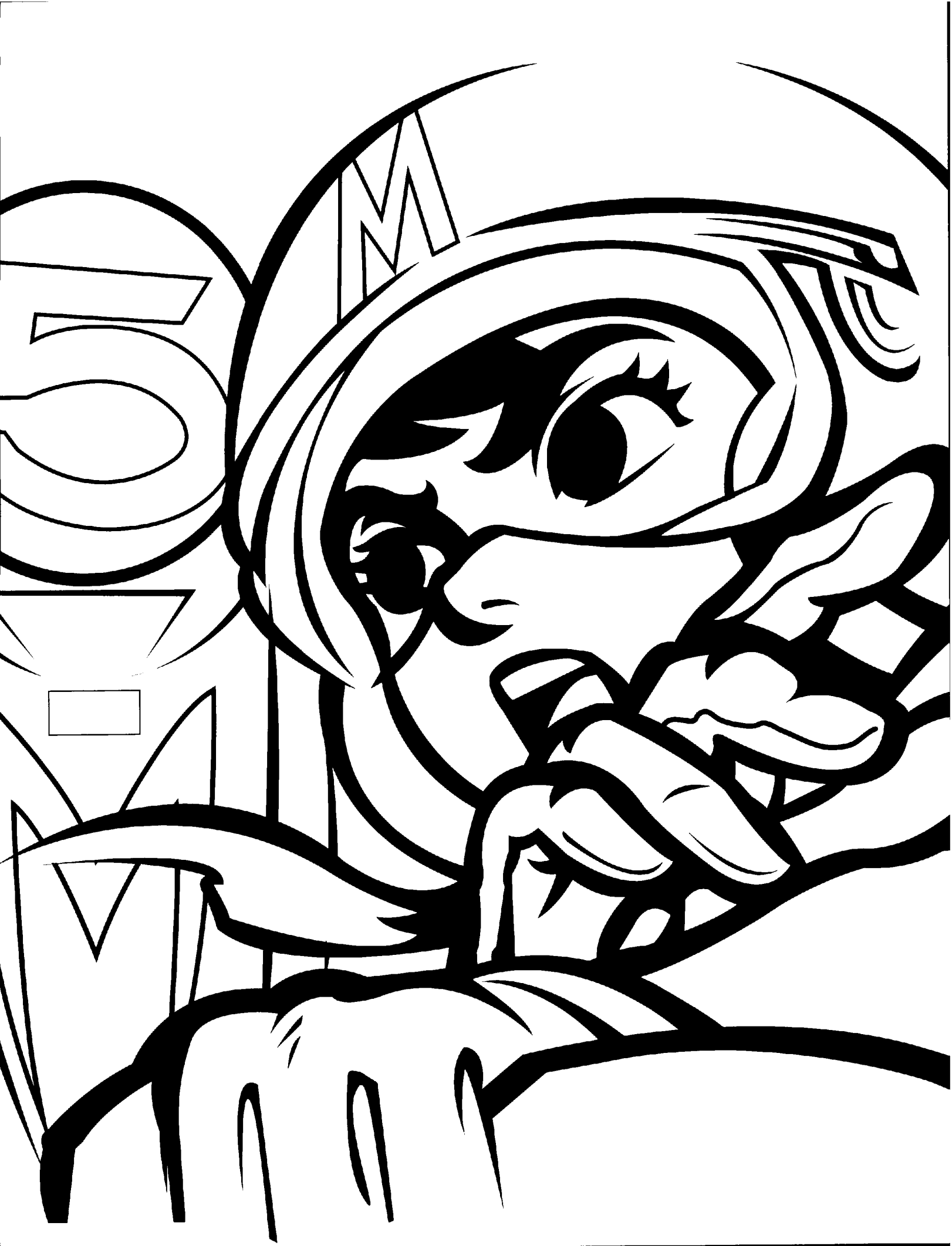
"I have an unquenchable thirst for the experiment and the process. This is what drives me."

Derek Wilson is a Miami native who prides himself on continuously pushing the envelope in the production of his art. He is a Florida International University graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in sculpture who describes himself as "somewhat of an alchemist." Wilson mixes materials and styles, subtly changing formulas to suit the concept he wishes to address. "My process is in a constant state of flux," he says. "I have an unquenchable thirst for the experiment and the process. This is what drives me."

Wilson's body of work is inspired by a variety of sources, and he often includes nostalgic tributes to his childhood memories, such as the popular 1960s TV cartoon series, "Speed Racer." "Cartoons were very special treats. They were something my brother and I looked forward to for weeks, sometimes months, at a time," recalls Wilson.

Wilson's forms of media range from large-scale portraits in oil on canvas to street-art-inspired works on found objects. He has consistently exhibited throughout his career in a variety of galleries and project spaces, but he is most proud of the work he has done for organizations such as Relay for Life, March of Dimes, Habitat for Humanity, Stand Up for Kids, Easter Seals and Touching Miami with Love.

Derek Wilson | @Mr.WilsonArt 

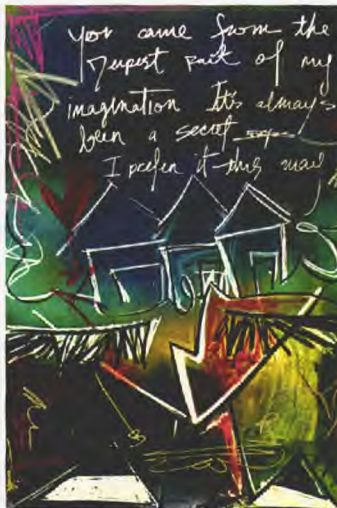


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