

Artist's Statement, RIC HORNOR, MFA

Our world is filled with harsh realities. Spin doctors and commercial interests lead many of us like sheep. The lack of the arts and humanities training in schools sends our kids drifting through life without the skills or rationale to “Think for themselves,” (the cliché term, “outside the box”).

Our society's major accomplishments, instantaneous communication, global access to products and markets, and convenience everything, has taken away our need and our ability to be creative, self-sufficient individuals. Instead, we're encouraged to, and most do, accept the role of being alike over one of being unique.

In short, our society is being homogenized and our humanity is being compromised.

You have a choice. You can fight the 'collective mind' and remain a unique individual. But it takes a concerted effort and can be a lifelong commitment. You must question and challenge authority. You must not just see things but make an effort to “Look” into them. You must understand that reality doesn't have to be the result of spin doctors' methodical processes of manipulation and coercion. *You can be the product of your individual quest* and work to retake and maintain control of your own life.

Or, you can simply 'Go with the flow' and accept the reality others give you, in pursuit of their quest.

On Surrealism: Some people claim they don't like surrealism. It's disturbing. In fact, it *usually* isn't surrealism, per se, that bothers them. They simply don't want to acknowledge any alternative views that challenge their relative comfort in the status quo. They might find that the best world they could live in may not be the one they're familiar with. Most of us would rather not do the work it takes to create something different, something better, dare I say, something more “Real?” “It's time consuming and such hard work.”

“**Surrealism,**” born in a time of world-wide political unrest, (WWI), has always challenged the status quo; in politics; education; business; art and in our social lives. While the world is being gobbled up by rabid capitalism, surrealism says, “Look at this picture upside down. Look at your world in a different context. Think of what else can be created using the basic elements at hand. Think of what reality might be if you took back your creativity and individuality and did something totally different. Think of how you can use humor and imagination to make your world better. Think of a future made up of individual minds and creative thinkers. Think of the world you want for your kids and grand kids. Ok. Now *look* at pictures and *see* some possibilities.

Thank You for Coming to “Look and See the Art.”

-Ric

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