

My Artist Manifesto

(Updated Fall 2018)

By Edward Locke (edwardnlocke@yahoo.com)

Philosophy of art and art-making: I believe that the purposes of art are

- (1) To express the ideals and feelings of the individual artist within the frameworks of the ethical values of the general public regarding good aesthetic tastes and visual decency; and
- (2) To serve the needs of the individual citizens (i.e., viewers and collectors of artworks) for visual and spiritual beauties, as well as legitimate financial gains;
- (3) To serve the needs of civil organizations and corporate entities in the local, national and international communities, in the pursuit of a better world with fairly shared and sustainable prosperity, social harmony and social progress.

The role of arts in the society: I believe that the primary roles of art in the world are

- (1) To arm citizens with visual, audial and other sensual tools to express their views and expectations in a free, democratic, just and progressive world community with a common destiny for the entire humankind.
- (2) To create visual, audial and other sensual effects that give people a sense of beauty and happiness in both spiritual and physiological realms, and
- (3) To contribute to economic and cultural progress of the humankind in the direction of happiness and enjoyment in daily life, social justice and communal harmony, inter-ethnic and international friendship, world peace, sustainable economic development for the fulfillment of legitimate human needs, protection of all creations of God including humans, animals and plants, and the improvement of ecological conditions.

Aesthetics and styles: I am a true believer in the concept of “art for art’s own sake” and subscribe to the concept of eclecticism; I try my best to integrate Van Gogh’s and Mary Cassatt’s individualized impressionistic styles with the modern commercially-oriented photo-realistic style, to create expressive creatures and scenes, which reflect my observations of the real world as well as my futuristic interpretation of a dream world; I am equally ready to explore other styles or techniques such as pointillism of Seurat, geometric or floral patterns of Celtic or Irish people, Archimboldo-style imagery, pastel color schemes of the Scandinavians, the Machine Age aesthetics of German Bauhaus, the styles of modern design movement such as Art Deco and Arts and Crafts Movement, as well as traditional ink brush painting techniques from Japan, China and Korea. My style is an integration of (1) impressionism, (2) expressionism, (3) symbolism, and (4) realism (both classical and photo-realist). I use three categories of tools to achieve my artistic goals:

- (1) Traditional “mainstream” tools (oil, acrylic, watercolor paints, brushes, painting and palette knives, graphite, charcoal and color pencils, water-soluble color

pencils and crayons, regular crayons, pastel and oil pastels, markers including brush tip markers).

- (2) Specialty craft and “non-traditional” tools and supplies (enamel paints, plastisol and fabric 3D paints used in T-shirt printing and decoration, nail polishes and make-up brushes, lipsticks, neon and gel pens, hair combs, and any other tool found in daily life that could be conveniently used to create special textures and effects, including kitchen utensils).
- (3) Digital tools (Adobe Photoshop and Illustration, Painter, 3ds MAX, Maya and others).

Learning from others in America’s multi-cultural communities: As a result of my personal and professional experience working with faculty and students, clients, employers and colleagues from diverse backgrounds in the past, I have gained various insights from the following perspectives:

- (1) Philosophical, i.e., different points of view on human happiness, community and world affairs, etc., which make up the ethnic and social spectrum of the contemporary United States with diversity and harmony;
- (2) Cultural and aesthetics, i.e., different values, norms, and standards, and preference for artistic styles; and
- (3) Technical, i.e., different methods used to accomplish similar tasks with comparable outcomes; and in multi-media arts, different techniques developed by different artists.

The most important thing for me is to value diversity and differences; and this requires me to learn how to humble myself in order to walk out of my own “boxes,” i.e., my preferred way of doing things, pre-judgment or prejudice, and to put myself in the others’ shoes. Based on the above understanding, when I taught engineering drafting at Santa Ana College (Fall 2001 - Spring 2007), I tried to subscribe to a service-oriented business practice aimed at satisfying people’s needs as much as possible; and use a student-centered pedagogy, working hard to make the learning curve more stream-lined (with tips, lecture and study notes published online), to accommodate different learning style (with make-up exams, extra-credits for special projects, individual tutoring, extended office hours and email communication) while making sure that all students master the basics of course content, through assignments, midterm and final projects.

With solid academic and professional backgrounds in both industrial product design using engineering drafting technology, and graphic design with solid fine arts skills, I try to bridge both world of technology and arts. My favorite themes for multi-media fine arts include American landscapes integrated with dream-world and futuristic creatures and machines.

So far, I am happy with the outcomes of my artistic endeavors, as illustrated by the artworks shown below.



A dream world scenery combining California landscape with dream world features of smiling sun and moon as well as fantasy animals.



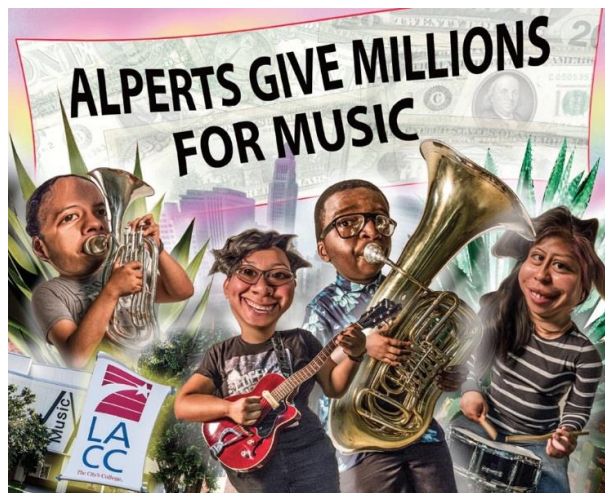
A dream world night scene with happy animals, smiling tree and light source (Pasadena City College Juried Student Arts Exhibition, November 22, 2016 to January 12, 2017, Boone Family Gallery, Center for the Arts).



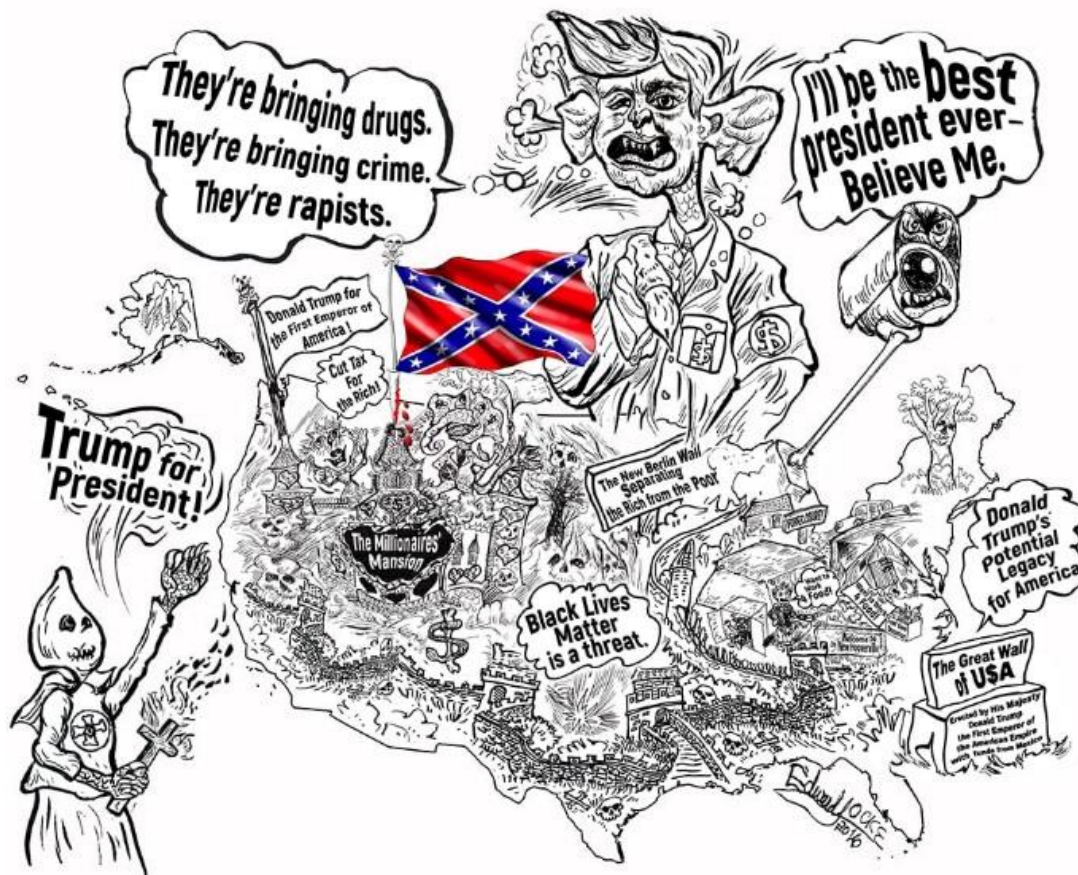
A Giuseppe Arcimboldo style scenery from California (selected as a Featured Artist piece and exhibited at Guisados Restaurant, November 2017 to January 2018, 541 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013, <http://www.guisados.co/dtla-multi-artist>).



A Giuseppe Arcimboldo style smiling face to celebrate vegetarianism (Pasadena City College 65th Annual Scholarship & Awards Exhibition, June 1 to July 14, 2017, Boone Family Gallery, Center for the Arts).



Alperets Give Millions for Music, a photo-illustration created for a front page news story (Collegian Newspaper of Los Angeles City College), in celebration of a large donation by the Alperets Foundation to the Music Department (Society of Professional Journalists National Winner of Mark of Excellence Award for Photo Illustration, July, 2017).



Donald Trump for President cartoon, created for and published on the Los Angeles Collegian newspaper of Los Angeles City College (for more published cartoons, visit <https://suniseacreation.weebly.com/cartoons--caricatures.html>).

