

Galerie Rompone

Josh Stover @Salone Rompone

march 16th - june 8th 2024

***When you look at your oeuvre do you have subjects and themes that are constantly to be found in your paintings?**

There are a few themes that are repeated in my work. I often paint and draw still-life scenes that are set in bars or diners. I also like to paint and draw objects from my home. Interior design and how objects are arranged in a space are things that I think about a lot. Many of my pieces contain text and are influenced by signs and advertising because of my background in sign painting and design.

***How important is it for you as an artist to walk around and observe houses, situations, signs, settings, like a Flaneur?**

This is very important to me as an artist and is where I get many of my ideas for paintings and drawings. I love cities and walk around my city as much as I can. I especially love seeing old cafes, diners and bars. I love the atmosphere and the quirks of establishments that have been around for a long time. I enjoy observing people's spaces and how they curate them. I would consider myself a Flaneur.

***How does abstraction interfere in your paintings and drawings?**

Abstraction is one thing that keeps me from getting bored when making art. If I try to depict something exactly as it is, it is tedious and more time consuming. Abstracting images allows me to make work more quickly and cycle through many ideas. It is fun for me to think of how much I can simplify an image, but still get the point across to the viewer. This is especially relevant to my drawings, because I make them entirely using stencils. I have to look at the stencils I have, and decide how I can use them to "build" the image I want.

For example, if I want to draw a tiny coffee mug, maybe I use a small rectangle stencil for the body of the mug, and a letter “D” from an alphabet stencil to draw the handle of the mug. I don’t draw anything freehand which helps me keep the process fun and playful on my end. I also love observing things and spaces that are imperfect and I think the abstraction in my work conveys that imperfection that I enjoy in the world.

***What kind of colors are the ones you mostly come back to?**

I mostly use pink, red, brown and mint green. I think I’m drawn to these colors because I see them so much in vintage objects that I have in my home. They were such popular colors in the past that they’re really prevalent in antiques.

In your work is not conotated negatively !

I love objects, and would consider myself a collector of objects. I like antiques, art, oddities, furniture and other household objects that I think are beautiful. I don’t think objects and consumption are always a negative thing. I like to depict things that have a personal meaning to me rather than objects that are new and mass-produced.

***Do you trust more in the unanimated object world than in human beings? Also because we do not see human beings on your paintings.**

That’s something I haven’t thought about, but maybe subconsciously. I would consider myself an introvert, and I like to spend time at home. To me there are people just outside of the frame sometimes. Like in my painting “The Aftermath”, the cocktail is spilled over and a cherry has fallen onto the bar stool, suggesting that someone had just disturbed the objects and then left the scene.

***Would you say your paintings are self portraits?**

Yes, I would definitely consider much of my work to be a sort of self portrait. I paint the objects I collect, and the places that I enjoy, so in that way my art is about my personal interests.

Josh Stover:

artist and sign painter based in Richmond, Virginia, USA
Originally from St. Petersburg, Florida, Stover found his way to painting after moving to Portland in 2015

2012 BFA in ceramics, University of Florida

since 2013 Co-owner of Variety Shop, specialising in custom made and painted signs, graphic design, mural design & installation

selected exhibitions:

2024

Untitled solo exhibition of drawings and paintings, Pamplemousse Gallery, Richmond. VA

2023

Umbrella Art Fair, group exhibition, Washington, DC
After Hours, solo exhibition, Nucleus Gallery, Portland

Lost In The Supermarket, solo exhibition, Park Life Gallery, San Francisco
Thank You For Shopping, two person exhibition with Jeffrey Sincich, Pacifica Collectives, Tokyo, Japan
Parlor Room, two person exhibition with Dara Schuman, Pamplemousse Gallery, Richmond, VA

2022

COPY/PASTE, group exhibition, Nucleus House, Portland
Around The Corner, group exhibition, Park Life Gallery, San Francisco
Inside/Outside, double show with J. Sincich, Pacifica Collectives, Tokyo, Japan
Potluck, group exhibition at Hashimoto Contemporary, Los Angeles

2021

Other Environments, double show with J. Sincich, Chefas Projects, Portland
Context, Art Miami, Hashimoto Contemporary Booth, Miami
vessel, group show Hashimoto Contemporary, San Francisco
Lush, group show Hashimoto Contemporary, New York City

Publications

2023 2nd Magazine, Japan, The Visual Performer
2019 Portland Monthly Magazine, This Duo makes some of Portland's Most eye catching Signs