

Outsider's Perspective

Clark Grinde

Second Floor Gallery

Aug 7 - Oct 2, 2021

“The real function of art is to change mental patterns... making new thought possible” - Jean Dubuffet

Art is transformative and meant to be an element of change, discovery, and renewal. There have always been artists at the fringes of the "Art World" seeking creative honesty and truth. Most seeking out primitive and or art created by children for inspiration. This attraction to naïve is at the root of modern art. Throughout history, artists searched for ways to break out of the academic mold they felt trapped by, artists such as Picasso, Duchamp, and Dubuffet. These artists and many more sought to find originality through untampered minds.

When looking at the work by local artist, Clark Grinde, it is crucial to view it through the context of its uniqueness and rawness. He has a naïve approach to creativity, producing works using the materials found locally. Clark's works may be considered as outsider art. Both art forms share a common interest in the use of everyday materials and have a raw aesthetic.

What is outsider art? This term defines art created by self-taught individuals that have a unique aesthetic. This form of art has a rawness to it; art created outside the academic tradition.

As a self-taught artist, Clark produces art that is simple and direct, employing materials such as cardboard, game boards, and craft paint—producing genuine and direct paintings. Over the last couple of years, his work has progressed, and he is constantly evolving as he discovers new materials and explores different subject matter.

Artist Statement:

I loved painting in high school, and after a long hiatus, I started making artwork again in 2015. Painting and collage give me great joy! I like to use heavy acrylic paints and bright colors. I want people to say to themselves..."what is going on here--Oh, I get it--or I don't--but I still like it!" I have always been a collector of 'things', like vintage games, picture cards, flash cards, and books. Some of these materials are used in my collage to represent a facet of life or make a social statement. I use recycled materials and I am constantly experimenting with different techniques.

When I make faces using acrylic paint, I never know how they will come out. It is only after adding more facial features and colors that I can decide on a name for the face. Sometimes it takes a while. Sometimes it is very fast. There are no set rules.

