

AOK

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Artist Statement

Breaking away from the age old traditions contained in Southern Folk Art, the Mission District San Francisco artist AOK (whose name literally means A-ok) is merging folk art painting approaches from his early upbringing with the modern day focuses on contemporary abstraction, digital remix, pattern making, and geometric form. Discovering the intersections between organic mark making and high-end digital imaging tools, he is blurring the lines between creating fine art paintings, street art, stencils, and digital art.

The surfaces of his paintings involve multiple textures and free flowing vibrant colors in a dimension of space without depth perception or anchors on perspective. Entirely drawn from energy and space, there are common stylistic motifs that run throughout his production which include the use of neon and pastel colors in contrast with metallic and iridescent textures, the use of scale and symmetry in reference to color, and the distinction between line and color blocking. The works generally have myriad layers of expression overflowing into a cacophony of colors fighting for visibility where some colors are seen underneath worn away paint and others claim a dominant role in the foreground surface -- it is impossible to find a starting or end point in the stratification of layers.

The studio process mixes an experimental and remix approach and an improvisational style to creating. with striking visual contrast, the paintings are defined by a reflection of energetic emotion referenced in color and action in their application. Line and form are contorted and broken to show that nothing is permanent. His paintings take on a presence of their own, influencing a person's space and stimulating the senses through distorted pattern, energetic color, and light activation.



CV

Education

Academy of Art University, 2014 (Continuing)

Georgetown University, MA

Georgia College & State University, BA

2014

- Artspan SF Open Studios, scholarship winner
- Late Nite Art, SomaArts Center, San Francisco, CA
- PatternPeople, Pattern Mix, publication. Portland, OR
- Artbeats Pier 70, San Francisco
- Wonderland SF show, San Francisco
- DiJu Gallery, Mission, San Francisco
- Muddys Coffee, Mission, San Francisco

2013

- Come Find Out Zine, University of California Press, Berkeley, CA
- Greenpoint Brooklyn Spring Art Festival

2012

- Come Find Out Zine, University of California Press, Berkeley Zine

2011

- Sun Catcher Mural Project Washington, DC
- Communication Culture Technology exhibit, Georgetown University

2010

- Gallery Assistant, Irvine Contemporary Gallery, Washington, DC

2009

- Cherrybomb, Washington, DC Cherry Blossom Festival

2007

- Art-O-Matic Group Show, Arlington, VA

2006

- Impulse Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- Google.com, Atlanta, GA headquarters
- Georgia National Folk Art Festival, Atlanta, GA

2005

- Blackbird Coffee, Milledgeville, GA
- Arfix - GC&SU Department of Art student Gallery
- Indulgent Productions, Baltimore, MD

2004

- Joycine's Gallery, Cherry Street, Macon, GA
- Cherry Blossom Festival, Macon, GA

2003

- Georgia National Fair, Blue Ribbon winner, Abstract emerging artist