

Art should comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable.

The Great Pumpkin

That is Addison. She is my granddaughter. The painter said. Proudly. They say that art should comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable. I looked at a lot of pictures. If you are interested, you can see my reference photo here:

http://www.mkgappraisal.com/card_ref.jpg

The thing that made this particular photo stand out is the expression on Addison's little face. Disturbed. That was my first thought. But then. As grandfathers sometimes do, I stared at the photo in a hypnotic state.

I hear music, there is a movie playing in my head. Addison, (da, da, da...DA) Superbaby!!! I can see Addison flying around her living room, held in her Mom's hands, in the classic Superman pose. I can see that both Addison and her Mom are delighted. I am delighted.

And then, back to the photo. Addison in the pumpkin patch. I have a theory. Addison has seen the Spirit of the Great Pumpkin. She is not quite sure what to make of this situation, but she is not backing down. I see bravery.

And at her age, it might be for the very first time in her life. Don't mess with Superbaby.

The challenge for me, the artist, is to capture that look. To tell that story. Or better yet, to invite the viewer to hear their own music and see their own movie and write their own story. And if none of that happens for you, I have an excuse. See below. Wait until next year.

2020

Times ain't not nothing like they used to be

My theme song for the year has been:
James Alley Blues, by
David Johansen and the Harry Smiths.

On November 30, I got sick. It was nasty. I got tested for the Covid, and it came back negative. But there were about 8 days where I spent 20 hours in bed. I am still trying to recover those 8 days. All of this is by way of an excuse for the state of the painting that I used for this year's card.

By definition, on Monday, Dec 14, at 5:00 PM, that was going to be the painting that showed up on my card this year. Ready or not. Full out panic.

I put down my paint brush at 5:00 PM on Monday, 12/14/20. I wiped the wet paint off

my hands and got out my camera and took the photograph. I submitted my order to Vistaprint that evening, and then went to bed, exhausted. All great artists suffer. It comes with the territory.

2021

Looking ahead: The year 2021 is expected to bring two new grandchildren into my life. This is wonderful news. Wonderful.

I sincerely hope, that in some small way, this card will brighten your spirit for Christmas in 2020, and improve your outlook for the year ahead.

Merry Christmas
12/18/2020

A brief history of my Christmas Cards:

In 2009 I tried something different for my Christmas Cards. You can see one of the 2009 cards here:

<http://www.goodartbyphilrice.com/?p=140>

It will explain how this all got started. Since then, every year, my Christmas Card features an image of an original art work.