

Chess Brodnick

About the Artwork

Chess Brodnick's current work focuses on portraiture and painting. A realist portrayal of faces and figures that are a dynamic representation of life. The artist's psychological images emerge in startling and provocative ways, unfolding profound internal and external emotion onto the picture plane.

Faces are what interests him most as an artist. To him, it is the most expressive and defining part of a person, and is ripe for creative expression. By illustrating the human face, the artist makes portraits of "events": the emotional, physical, psychological impact of various events from his own life, in hopes others can relate, and connect to their own emotional and mental states of mind. He uses realism combined with abstraction to illuminate the results of an "event". This is done by distorting a face and placing it in an abstract field— much like in Cubist works —thereby showing the outside and inside of a person, simultaneously, in response to an occurrence. The resulting image is a more dynamic and accurate portrait of what we each experience in our lives.

The drawings included in this exhibition are part of a series of self-portraits representing the artist's response to events in his life over the last two years of the pandemic, and the social and political unrest that has also plagued the US, and the world, during these times. The paintings portray a combination of "my inner and outer reactions simultaneously. The abstract "field" reflects my thoughts and emotions to a specific event as though they were transformed and projected outside of my head." The face is at times "fractured", or abbreviated, to show the impact of the event as it occurs in time. Life is not linear, and through his art, he finds the perfect way to capture this fact.

His drawings strive to present transparent distillations of life experience and inner emotional turmoil. Faces bend, contort, and segment, as life would move them. The external and internal forces that shape a life in a moment come to coalesce, pushing and pulling as if to say, "See me, see it all" — good, or bad.

"To my mind, purely expressive forms of art, poetic perhaps, often spring from the media of ink painting, charcoal, and dark pencil drawings." The artist postures from the extreme of utter dark to the lightest of light, making stops in the grey of uncertainty. There is no concealing, no reliance on color, to refine ideas and emotion— just light and shadow, shape and truth.

About the Artist

Chess Brodnick is an American contemporary artist and psychotherapist specializing in the treatment of psychotic disorders. The latter has a great influence on the content and style of his work.



Photo Courtesy of the Artist

Brodnick has not had formal training in the arts, instead has spent years researching techniques and time in front of the mirror, honing the skills needed to create images that resonate.

Over the last four decades, Brodnick has shown his artwork in the following venues: Alpha Contemporary Exhibits, Highland Park, CA; L.A.C.E. Community Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; LA ART, at both the Soho, NY and Encino, CA locations; Carter Sextons, North Hollywood, CA; Los Angeles Art Assoc. Gallery 825, Los Angeles, CA; Dab Art, Los Angeles, CA; and Las Laguna Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA. He has also participated previously in several Ink & Clay exhibitions at Cal Poly Pomona's Kellogg University Art Gallery, winning the 1st place *Curator's Award* in 2019 in *Ink & Clay 44*.

