

## Kent Jones' Artist Statement

My Work is narrative in style, and has much in common with literature—poetry in particular—as with the visual precedents set by other artists. I enjoy making paintings which are about Painting, and prints which are about Printmaking, because each medium has unique qualities which help to guide an artwork from the initial idea through to fruition.

I try to create bewildering or intriguing images within each picture, and I often place them in a more or less formal arrangement of theatrical or cartographic composition, and I like to walk the line between objectivity and subjectivity, or between the representational and the non-representational because it helps set up intrigue.

The most important element in each picture is a central theme or idea which I try to present in a unique way, hence each work rarely exists as part of a series per se, and so I am free to work on several themes at once. I enjoy making the visual clues which unlock the ideas interesting in themselves—beautiful—even “pretty”. This at once produces pleasing visual effects while veiling the more serious nature of many of the pieces. The process of making art and viewing art is, in part, a social activity. I'm pleased if my work touches someone and believe that an artist has role which is special, but not separate, from others in society. I never make pictures so that others will like them, but I do offer them an avenue of approach.

Many of my pictures openly deride cynicism and negativism; others are more psychologically “charged” and provocative. I am committed to addressing specific ideas or concepts in my artwork—something which I believe embodies a Western, and specifically, European methodology. I also believe that attention to craft and to skill in execution—components which have a broader cultural appeal—can enhance ideas, provided they work in the service of the ideas and not a decoration alone.

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