

January 20, 2015

Graphic Design & Fine Art Biography for Mark A. Del Balso

Mark Anthony Del Balso was born on May 4, 1963. In his early childhood, Mark's mother Antonia recognized artistic talent and encouraged him to think creatively and express his interests through art. She also enrolled him in classes at Willoughby Fine Arts.

Mark attended Eastlake Junior High School where he became an art student of Robert Nekich who would have a profound effect on his art. The classical drawing techniques and controlled methods of painting learned in those classes gave structure to Mark's ideas. Mr. Nekich named Mark as recipient of the Achievement Award for art in 1978. At Kirtland High School, Mark enrolled in art classes taught by Cliff Novak who encouraged him to achieve higher technical standards and set artistic goals. The yearly art shows at Kirtland challenged him to present his work on a larger scale. Upon his graduation in 1981, Mark was awarded the Art Achievement Award for Kirtland High School.

College was a time of discovery and hard work for Mark. Art courses at Lakeland Community College refined his technical art skills with an intense focus on academic achievement. Walter Swyrdenko and Richard Parsons provided artistic direction and inspiration through art drawing and painting courses. John Merchant and John Spiri were influential in Mark's decision to pursue graphic design as a career. He worked in the summers building industrial displays and enlisted into the Ohio Army National Guard for further school funding. Upon graduation from Lakeland, Mark transferred to Kent State University where he focused on graphic design, illustration and painting.

Mark met Cindi Schmitt for the first time at a New Year's Eve party in Kent, Ohio. She was enrolled in graduate painting courses at Kent State. It was a match made in heaven and love at first sight for both artists. Cindi and Mark would marry exactly three years later. Cindi was also an artistic inspiration as she painted nature with her unique style.

While attending painting classes at Kent State, Mark began to explore new means of composition. This was where he began to include found objects in his paintings and other materials like Plexiglas, left over from making industrial displays. Mark was encouraged to continue this original form of expression by Craig Lucas and other artists of the faculty when he graduated from Kent State in 1991.

After working at a number of graphic design studios and agencies, Mark decided to start his own company in 1992. Mark-it Design became a means to follow trends in digital design and computer technology while pursuing his fine art.

Over the years, Mark maintained a balance between his fine art and graphic design. His surrealistic images developed into a style he called "Quantum Art." The result was a composition where subjects flowed together while they formed larger concepts. Interpretation of this art engaged the viewer's association of meaning and activated subjective dimensions of his art for the imagination.

In 2002, Mark also began teaching illustration, graphic design and computer courses at Lakeland Community College. He continues his graphic design business, freelance agency work and part-time teaching to the present day.

Art Shows & Exhibitions

Lakeland Faculty Art Exhibitions

2015 Digital Graphics, Illustration, Paintings,
Quantum Art & Sculpture (Since 2002)
Lakeland Community College
Kirtland, Ohio

Cleveland Artists Invitational Exhibit

2011 Trinity Cathedral Commons Gallery
Exhibitor & Artist Panel Speaker
Cleveland, Ohio

Kirtland High School Art Alumni Exhibit

2010 Drawing & Painting Retrospective
Principal's Award

Ursuline College & Lakeland Faculty Art

2006 Painting Exhibit
Florence O'Donnell Wasmer Gallery
Pepper Pike, Ohio

Invitational Fine Art Show

2005 Paintings (3rd show since 2003)
East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church
Kirtland, Ohio

Quantum Art Series

2003 Paintings & Digital Art
The Enclave
Willoughby, Ohio

Past & present works by Mark Del Balso

2002 Quantum Art Exhibition
Kirtland Public Library
Kirtland, Ohio

Intermission Art

2001 Quantum Art Exhibition
Baldwin-Wallace College
Kleist Center for Art & Drama
Berea, Ohio

MAY Senior Project Exhibit

1991 B.F.A. Graphics Exhibit
Design & Illustration for May 4th
Retrospective
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio

Lakeland Art Exhibits

1986 Overall Graphics Award,
Outstanding Techniques,
Honorable Mention Photo,
♦ Graphic Arts/Ohio
1985 Graphic Excellence Award,
Outstanding Illustration,
Lettering & Typography,
♦ Graphic Arts/Ohio
Excellence Award
Lakeland Community College
Mentor, Ohio

Tri-County Art Exhibit

1981 Two- Blue Ribbon Awards,
Honorable Mention
Lakeland Community College
Mentor, Ohio

Student Art Exhibits

1981 Overall Best of Show,
Special Award,
Two- First Place,
Four- Honorable Mention
1980 First Place
Two- Second Place,
Honorable Mention
Kirtland High School
Kirtland, Ohio

Youth Art Month Exhibits

1981 Two- Awards of Merit,
1980 Two- Honorable Mention
The School of Fine Arts
Willoughby, Ohio