

ARTIST STATEMENT

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I believe my current work is both newly contemporary and uniquely mine. I feel it doesn't fit exactly in any of the established styles from the past, but it draws from and pays homage to many of the masters from Caravaggio to Rauschenberg. Certainly both the Dada Movement and the Surrealists have been a major influence in the past, and that certainly can still be seen in much of my work. My focus now is on creating art that is available to anyone, and calls on the observer to be an active participant by creating their own relevance and relationship to each piece. To that end I use established cultural and created fictional icons, combined with historical events and invented futures to present narratives that beg the observer to finish the story, or to create a another story newly with each viewing.

My current series which I call "Bumps", explores the metaphor of the road in American life and myth, where speed bumps are the interruption of our flow, of our progress down that road. Each painting is a 3 x 3' canvas with acrylic paint, mixed often with transfers, and in one case recycled materials, and each represents an event in a range from 1945, five years before I was born, to possible futures, some not far enough away.

The bumps offer a chance to look, on levels both personal and societal, in verbal and non-verbal ways at what stops us, distracts us, and has us even change our course, from what we have perceived as our destination or direction. At the same time they question our concept of what is freedom in America, and where are we headed