

Artist Statement

I approach my paintings as pictography, using pictured objects and symbols to convey ideas and information into a visual language. These images are not layered, but puzzled together in sequence, creating a narrative that's both specific and open to interpretation.

Working on paper using only acrylic paint, I mimic painting and printing methods to appropriate the style in which I want that object to look. The end result is a patchwork of different processes, creating a coherent whole. The manner in which my images are applied is of great interest to me; the way in which different textures, surfaces and styles respond to each other and how the application of the paint can enhance the psychological push of the narrative. The nature of the object in many cases determines how it's painted; for example, I'll use silkscreening for manufactured objects to feel mass-produced, cold and impersonal. Cartoon images hold more psychological impact and remain spatially flat and clean like an animation cel, while organic and handmade objects become personal by the labor and evidence of the brush.

My painting's narratives are never shown in the "act" but rather by what precludes or follows that act. This way one has to imagine what you are looking at, piece it together and make your own conclusion. If I included the source of the narrative, there would be no story to tell - it's now about what is absent that lets the work continue and keep its mystery.

Robert Fisher
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