

Stephen Tompkins

Fine Arts
United States

View the full portfolio at <http://www.thecreativefinder.com/totemotemot>

Professional Experience and Curriculum Vitae

"Daydreams and nightmares seem to inform Stephen Tompkins' work equally. One addictively absorbing example is GummyMorph, a compendium of lugubrious shape-shifting goblins and tumescent worms that inflate, bloat, pop, reconfigure, melt and sway to a mesmerizing percussive soundtrack. Domesticated Celestial Bestiary (this animation opens with a gong as a house decants an unlikely menagerie of creatures before promptly deliquescing), is another key example of Tompkins' associative process which playfully sutures the sublime and the ridiculous." - Robin Clark, PhD, MCASD (Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego) for the San Diego Art Prize 2010 nomination

"Tompkins' work is almost like as if the entire Dr. Seuss series of children books (not as if that series wasn't bizarre enough) went on a 14 day LSD binge with all the other necessary drug accoutrements like in "Fear and Loathing Las Vegas"...pure chaotic beauty." - Empty Kingdom

"Just as an LSD stamp distorts our vision , the paintings of Stephen Tompkins reform our perception. Continuously changing from background to foreground, we are following lines and have been trapped trying to find a figurative form or an organized chaos, we are caught red-handed trying to find the beginning or the end. Stephen Tompkins multilayered visions experiences with the abundance of informations and the power of chance . His anti-natural cartoon forms seem suddenly organic. Well known strokes of our childhood are losing their original forms, abandoned in their transparencies, they build a space of permanent metaphors suggesting the ugliness of truth. The amount of unfinished bodies sporadically crossed by precedent or future layers are vanishing the figurative into abstract. Those humorous see-throughs are far of just satisfying some esthetic purpose, they succeed reminding us to the vulnerability of humanity and the fragile aspect of beauty. Stephen Tompkins has reached the point where he redefines the difference between a painting which is directly self displaying or the one doing it through illustration." - Jaybo AKA Monk, Artist, I Wish U Sun

Previous Clientele

Hilger Contemporary
Galerie Ernst Hilger
SMART (DaimlerChrysler)
Pal + Smith

Awards and Accolades

Biography by Luis De Jesus, Luis De Jesus Los Angeles

A painter, experimental animator and composer, Stephen Tompkins was born 1971, Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated from Bowling Green University, Bowling Green, Ohio, with a B.A. in Philosophy (1995). He also participated in the post-graduate program at Ohio University (1996) studying semiotics, phenomenology and deconstruction, and as well as art, music theory and electronic music composition at Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio (1990). Tompkins' paintings, drawings, and animated videos employ the familiar iconography of animated cartoons and comic books in order to explore the fragmented subjectivities and cultural schizophrenia that permeates any

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