

Senior Exit Review:

Todd Meier

Intoduction:

I started in the Fall of 2008 wanting a degree in Art Education. This was not because I wanted to be an artist, but because I wanted to be a Pastor. I chose to get an Art Ed. degree because I had to pick something to as a focus. My freshman year I enjoyed making art-work as assignments for classes. Sophomore year marked my first experience making my own work. I remember sitting in my studio just starring at primed boards and canvases, feeling directionless, wishing I could please someone with an assignment. Since then, I have gotten more comfortable. The end of my junior year marked an interesting time when all of my paintings were rejected from the Student Show. I had professors telling me that my work was good enough to get into graduate school, but then some of those same professors were part of the panel that voted them out of the show. I am still dealing with that situation. I mistrust my Professors sometimes because I wonder if they're not just patting me on the back. This makes me question if that's all that they do. I always wonder what they really think. This year I have learned a lot about myself and about my own painting process by spending a lot more time in the studio. Next semester I am going to be painting even more than I have this semester. I have started the application process to graduate schools, where I will continue to study painting next year and the year after. A few of the schools are Wichita State, Hunter School in NY, Iowa University, and The University of Illinois Chicago. After graduating I will find a job teaching painting at a college somewhere in the United States.

Artist Statement:

GENERAL:

I never want my work to be able to be pegged down.

“The Order War” by L.E. Modesitt Jr. is a small fantasy novel that I read growing up. This book offers a world that is based on two opposing sides, order and chaos. Much like a chess board these two sides clash in epic battles, small conflicts, and overall plots. In The Order War one character thinks outside the box and becomes a grey mage, being both Order and Chaos. To this day I still want to be him, I want to be Justin, wielding both Order and Chaos, meaning that rather than being cast into a group that is allowed to do my thinking for me, I would consider everything for myself. Regardless of my subject matter, I hope to create works that are thought provoking enough to keep people engaged, but ambiguous enough that the works are never solved or dismissed. I want my works to have a visual starting point, so that they are approachable, while still portraying abstract concepts.

PAINTINGS:

Artists long ago in history used to paint pictures of animals on caves and on pottery. These abstract images were not based on visual representation, but on the essence of the animal. These artists spent a lot of time with these animals, hunting them and living amongst them. I don't spend a lot of time with animals, but I do spend a lot of time thinking about my life and about the decisions that I am making or that I could make. I am considering everything for myself. As a result of this mindset I am often at a loss to describe the feeling that comes from what I am thinking about. These are feelings that I was never taught to address, feelings that I don't know how to handle. These feelings are not something that is easy to have a conversation about. So, I make paintings. These paintings are a protection. Children are known to do this with traumatic events in their lives. They will often draw the event, giving them a sense of control over the situation. This is the same for me. Once I transfer a feeling to paint it doesn't bother me anymore, it allows me to compartmentalize and return to that idea later on.

THE COW SERIES:

I chose the image of a cow first and foremost because of its girth. I have always been drawn to animals that are large, I think because I have always been a big guy for my age. Also, cows are an animal that is native to the small town where my college is located. I wasn't raised on a farm. I do not work with cattle. So, I am romanticizing the idea of the cow in these paintings, I really don't know much about them. To me, cows are slow, lumbering animals that appear to be reflective, even if they are not actually. It's the image I can create with them that I am interested in.

Todd Meier

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Studio located at:

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Work

4 years Gallery Assistant at Marxhausen Gallery Concordia University Seward NE

Internship at Trinity Lutheran in Davenport Iowa

Awards

Art Scholarship Concordia University

Regents Scholarship Concordia University

Exhibitions

2009 Concordia University NE *Student Show*

2010 Concordia University NE *Link Library Show*

2010 *Imageo Dei* Kansas City MO

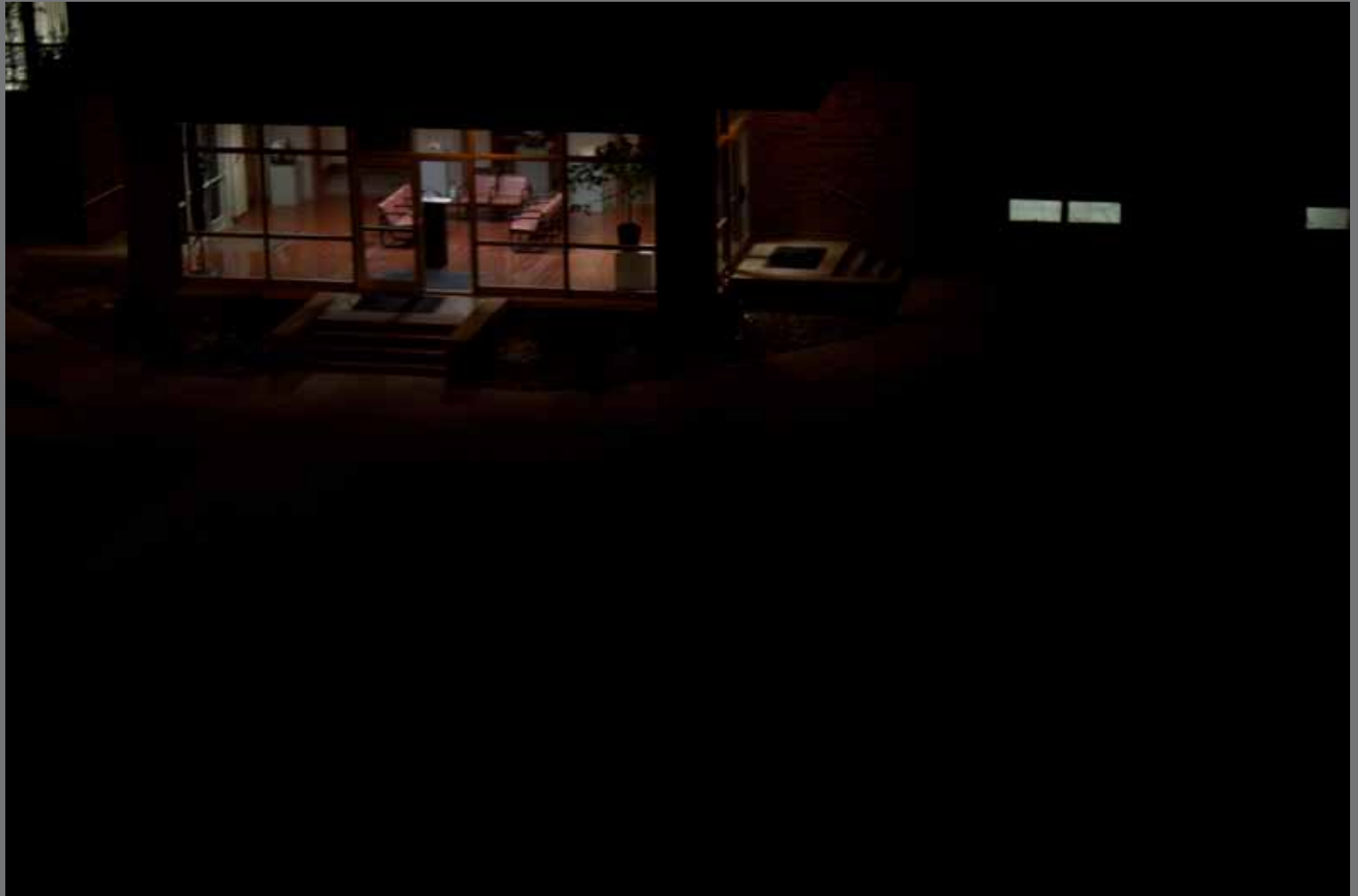
2010 Concordia University NE *Student Show*

2011 The Lichen Gallery *Black Friday Sale* Lincoln NE

2011 Concordia University NE *Student Show*

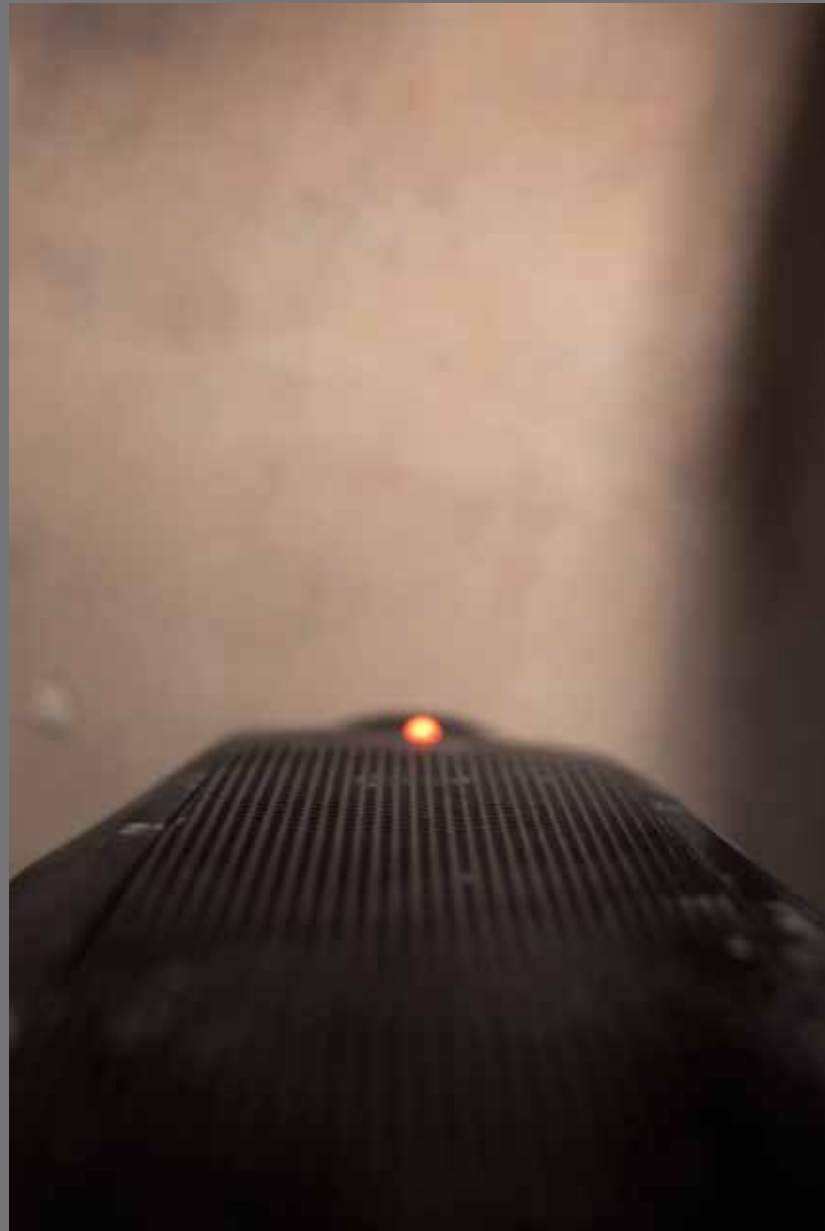
Current Employment

Marxhausen Art Gallery Concordia University NE



Nice Doll House
Digital Print
Basic Photography

Tower
Digital Print
Basic Photography





Good Thing the Light Works
Digital Print
Basic Photography

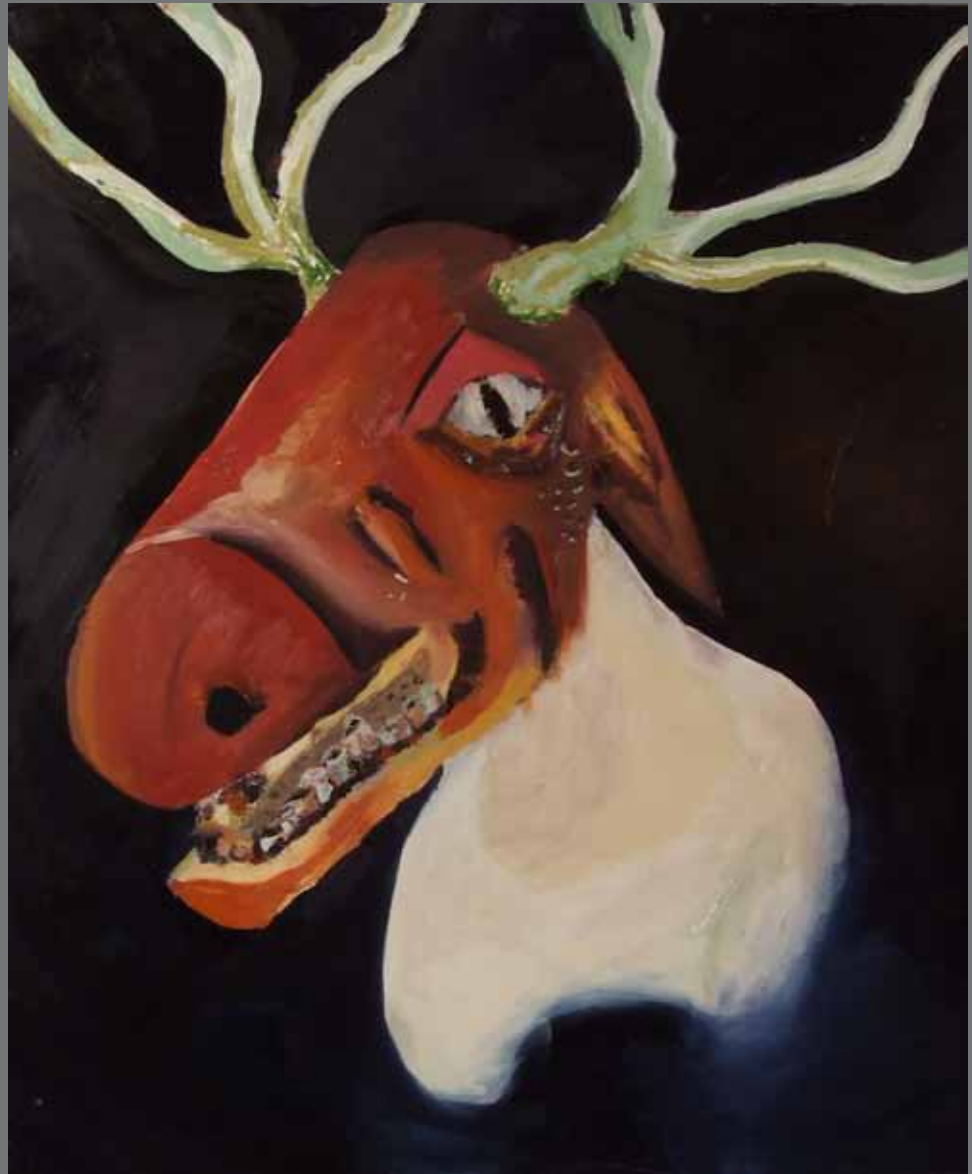


Readymade Readymade
Digital Print
Basic Photography



Complementary Light
Digital Ptint
Basic Photography

Dangerous Beauty
30"x36"
Advanced Painting Fall 2011



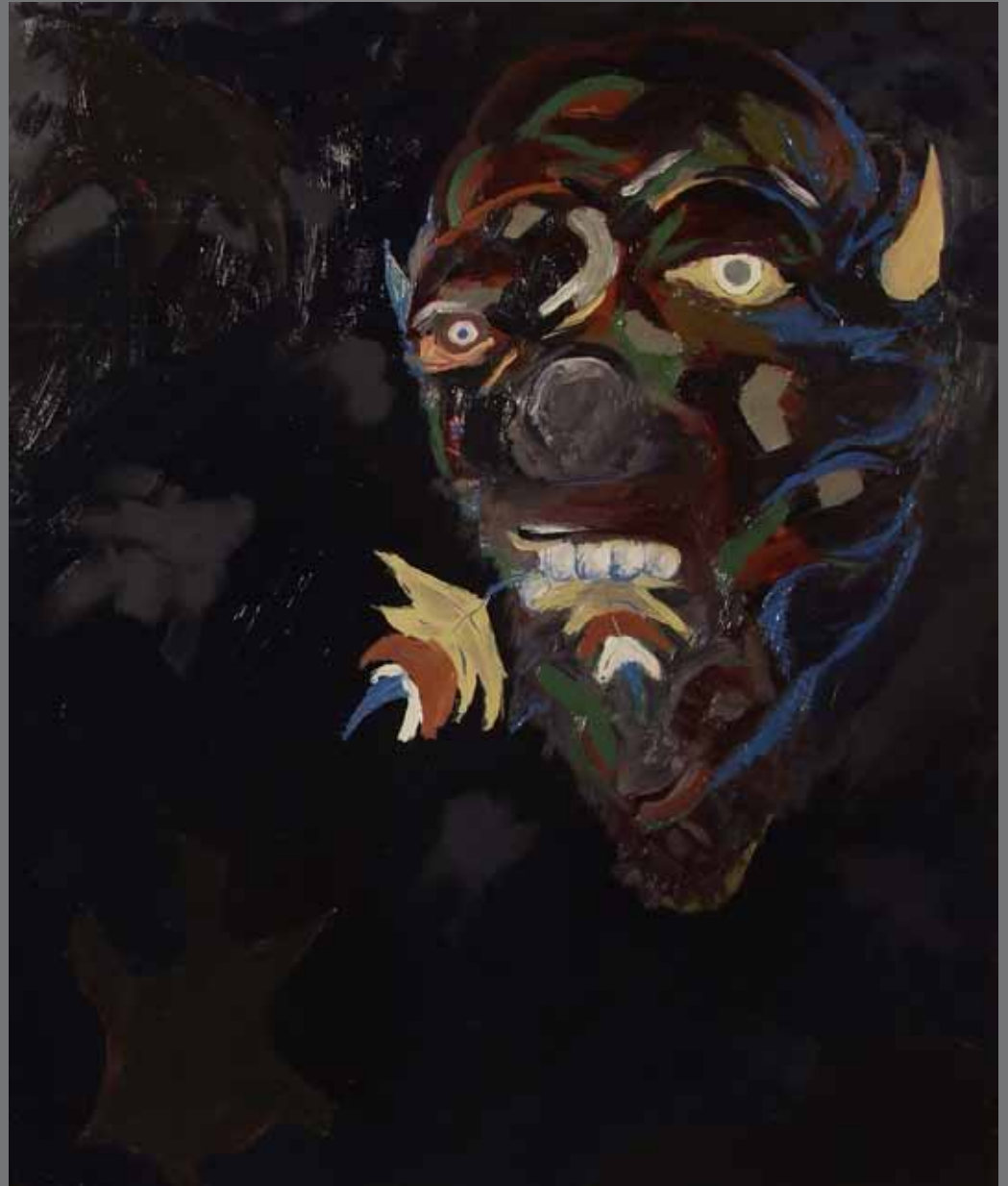


Dog
30"x36"
Advanced Painting Fall 2011



Untitled
28"x36"

Advanced Painting Fall 2011



This is a Buffalo Head

30"x36"

Advanced Painting Fall 2011



Bear (It weighed on Me)

24" x 30"

Advanced Painting Fall 2011

Constant (Eternal)

7"x7"

Advanced Painting Fall 2010





(The) Lamb

7"x7"

Advanced Painting Fall 2010

Self Portrait - Who am I?
18"x24"
Introduction to Painting



What Lies Beneath You?
18"x24"
Summer 2010





The Very First Thoughts in my Head

66"x48"

Advanced Painting Fall 2011

Do We Like Each Other?
24"x36"
Advanced Painting Fall 2011



I Care, Even if I Don't

24"x36"

Advanced Painting Fall 2011



Like That's Ever
Going to Happen
24"x36"

Advanced Painting Fall 2011



The Deepest Impression
I Ever Made
30"x36"
Advanced Painting Fall 2011



Just Catch a Hint in the Eye
24"x36"
Advanced Painting Fall 2011



Untitled
24"x36"
Advanced Painting Fall 2011



Untitled
24"x36"
Advanced Painting Fall 2011



When There's a Burning
24"x36"
Advanced Painting Fall 2011

