



Onloaded: Jason Dinger

January 16 – February 15, 2015

Mesa, Arizona-based visual artist Jason Dinger in his first solo exhibition. Dinger describes himself as “laughs, gasps, and like a Satanist throwing up a graffiti burner down that dark alley most are too afraid to walk.” His lifetime fascination with 1970s Italian horror films and 1980s American drive-in slasher films along with classic movie posters plays out in his paintings which often include images of dark subject matter including murder, Satanism, sexual perversion, drug abuse, torture, and with what he admits is a discontent with mankind at times. His role as a provocateur of suppressed desires, twisted proclivities, and alternative practices kick punches viewers who may dismiss his work as humorous or frivolous.

Dinger is passionately dedicated to art making while balancing demanding school and work commitments. In a short period time, I have witnessed a stylistic transformation as a result of self-discipline in dedicating specific time for painting which has manifested into technical advances that are establishing a unique style. Bucking traditional academic painting instruction, Jason first paints the canvas black and subsequently works dark to light, pulling, manipulating, and shaping figures from the darkness. He generally uses acrylic paints which allow him to work faster, to layer, and to convey emotion through his active brushstrokes. He uses traditional color theory juxtaposed with neon, aerosol-like colors which cause figures to pop out from the picture plane, invading the viewer’s space and igniting responses ranging from amusing, nervous glances to fixed stares at images which grab attention and which are slow to fade from memories. The smooth transitions he makes in rendering a variety of figures in an accomplished, collage-like manner is a recent stylistic breakthrough.

Unlike the underwhelming and unnecessary plethora of “shock and awe” art prevalent these days, Dinger’s art is idea-driven, fueled by constant research, walks down dark alleys, and an enjoyment of film, pop culture, and constant, fearless experimentation with painting techniques from academic instruction and from YouTube demonstration videos. He is at the beginning of his professional career as a visual artist and already has an impressive, shining trajectory, surely to take on new luster as he continues to passionately paint.

Ted G. Decker, January, 2015