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Lowell Sipes 'oceansquid'

I have always admired a good storyteller. Seemingly unrehearsed accounts shared fearlessly with accompanying sounds described in detail, character voices, mannerisms and minor adjustments modified by a quick intellect and a quicker tongue. Combine a good story with a space which has been created to help transport participants to another place and a transformation can occur. This is the goal for my work: to tell a good story and transport the viewer to someplace else, if only for a moment.

I begin my work always with drawings in graphite and ink, most often from photos I shoot digitally or in 35mm film. I love to modify the images to create a subjective interpretation of the naturalistic. I choose acrylic mediums: paint, paint markers, aerosol paints, gel medium and polyurethane, using these mediums primarily on canvases I build and recycled substrates; preferably wood, as it is easy to modify, connect to, shape. But how an artwork is displayed is just as important as what the artwork is, I feel. I Like to create work that has a relevant relationship with the spaces I display in, and equally choose appropriate spaces to display work I have created, but most of all, I love to change the ambient nature of an unrelated space to accommodate my work, building a small reality where once there was only an empty space. The room becomes the canvas, and the viewer a participant.

Artists and designers who influence my work are varied, and include Georgia O'Keefe, Mercer Mayer, Nick Cimyote, Snik, Jim Phillips, Wes Humpston, Pushead, Andy Warhol, Stanley Mouse and Karen White, amongst many others from who I draw inspiration. I am grateful to their contributions to the creative pulse of the world.

I live and work between Whidbey Island in WA State and Adliswil, Switzerland, with the love of my life, Vera, and our collective sons.

Images below, clockwise, left to right

Image 1: 'Angelfish Sunrise', 2019; acrylic on canvas; 94x122cm (36x48")

Image 2: 'Manta Night Dive'; 2019; acrylic on canvas; 94x122cm (36x48")

Image 3: 'La Sirena Atlantica'; 2021; acrylic on canvas; 101x229cm (40x90")

Image 4: 'Key West Lionfish', 2021; acrylic on canvas; 94x182cm (36x72")

