

From the Hudson Valley to the World Stage

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CAPTION PHOTO ABOVE: "BATMEN" 2019 OIL ON CANVAS 64 X 96 IN.

By ML Ball

Photos: Courtesy of the Artist, Jason Bard Yarmosky

WHILE IT MAY BE true that you can't go home again, maybe you can go home to visit, particularly if you're being honored.

Such is the case with Jason Bard Yarmosky, an internationally renowned figurative painter and a 2006 alumnus of The Art Effect (when it was Mill Street Loft). Jason is one of three honorees at this year's Art After Dark, The Art Effect's major annual event, which means that he'll be returning to his hometown of Poughkeepsie for the festivities on October 24.

While Jason's work has been exhibited all over the world—including Paris, Brussels, Germany and China—as well as in numerous museums and galleries across America, he got his start here in the Hudson Valley.

During his last two years at Poughkeepsie High School, Jason took drawing classes at Mill Street Loft, then attended the School of Visual Arts in New York, graduating with a BFA in 2010.



"VOGUE" PENCIL ON PAPER 24 X 30 IN.

"It was an amazing experience for me, working with Todd Poteet and David Soman," Jason says. "They recognized my talent but I wasn't trained, I was only self-taught."

"We worked in acrylic, pastel and charcoal, and I learned to work from a live model, which was very beneficial because I never had the opportunity to do that before. It was great exposure."



"THE BOXER" 2012 OIL ON CANVAS 72 X 60 IN.



"TRICK OR TREATERS" 2013 OIL ON CANVAS 80 X 65 IN.

Jason now works primarily in oil, often using his grandparents as models to both explore age and to challenge the boundaries of traditional portrait painting.

"We don't live in a society that celebrates aging," says Jason. "We celebrate youth. Because I was so close to my grandparents, I was experiencing the aging process with them through the work we were doing. What I choose to explore in my work is personal."



"HARMONY" 2019 OIL ON CANVAS 56 X 84 IN.

In his most recent paintings, Jason has continued to address the issue of age but has expanded his focus to bring together people with whom he has close personal relationships. "By putting these people together—old people, young people, white people, black people—these are all the people that make me who I am, who have really influenced and inspired me, so they're self-portraits in some sense," he explains.

Jason points out that these groupings also challenge the normality of tribalism within our society. "Primarily throughout art history, white men have been painting white people. Within the last decade, there has been an amazing platform for female artists, black artists, gay and trans artists," he says. "For me, because my world is so diverse and eclectic, it only feels right in my own personal explorations to put these people together. It's important to express what I'm trying to say regardless of whether it's accepted at the moment or not. Eventually, I feel that if work is powerful and it's sincere, and that you connect with it strongly, there's a very good chance it will connect with other people."



"WHISPERING GRASS" 2015 OIL ON CANVAS 84 X 84 IN.

To view Jason's body of work, visit his website at jasonyarmosky.com. To learn more about The Art Effect, its class offerings and tickets to Art After Dark, visit feelthearteffect.org. ■