

Artist Enclave

Enriching the Arts

By Brian Lynch

An interview with Curtis Sneary, a professional artist living in Historic Kenwood.

Curtis Sneary has been in the creative field of work since graduating from the Columbus College of Art and Design in 1987. His paintings are scattered mostly around the Eastern parts of the U.S. and many have made it to homes around other parts of the world. You may have seen his largest painting on 34th st. and 8th Ave. N. His design was selected for a mural to commemorate our own Historic Kenwood.

For those who have a hard time understanding “painterly realism,” what is it?

Realism in art is a look that feels three dimensional, almost as if you could walk into the painting. There are varying levels of realism, such as looser to tighter. Painterly would be on the looser end of the spectrum.



Beaver Wants To Be An Artist

Why did you choose painterly realism as your creative style of choice?

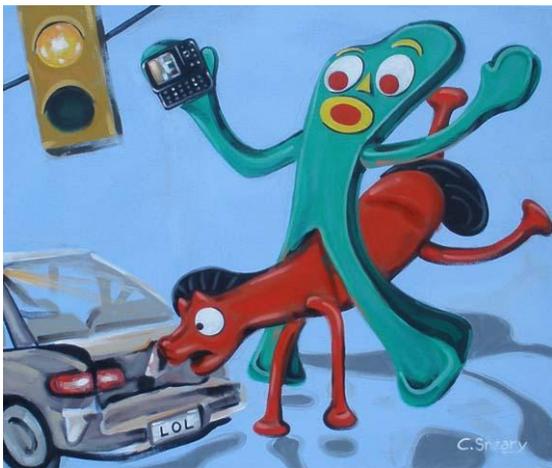
This style evolved from my interest in particular artists such as Edward Hopper, George Bellows, Vincent Van Gogh, and Robert Henri, who was one of the “Eight” that started the Ashcan School; a realist artistic movement during the early twentieth century.



DJ St. Pete

How has your style changed over the years?

I've loosened up quite a bit. My style has become more direct with the brushstrokes and I have been focusing more on feeling than content.



Gumby Texting

How do you find your inspiration?

Ideas pop into my head all the time; it's the images that won't go away that become paintings. I'm also inspired by nature. I often paint landscapes plein air.



MRI Before Operation

What is your creative process like?

First and most importantly, I go over an idea with my wife. She has great intuition and debates with me objectively; ultimately it's up to me, but talking with somebody really helps. Then I research the idea by collecting reference material. This could include my own sketches and any photos I can find.



Mayberry Pain Clinic

How do you use color and composition to evoke emotion in your pieces?

You learn what works visually. I've learned contrast creates a lot of emotion. With composition, simplicity seems to be key, i.e., a lonely farmhouse on a winter night.



Fort Desoto Scrub Pines

What is the most challenging part about creating art?

Staying true to what you want to create and blocking out all the other voices.



What Now Professor?

What has been your greatest difficulty as an artist and how did you overcome it?

Accepting rejection is difficult. I've learned this is a large part of the job and not to take it personally. Art is very subjective. As long as you're respectful to people when they reject your idea, more than likely they'll remember you favorably down the road.



Dusk At Burlington Ave.

What do you believe is a key element in creating a good composition?

What you're trying to communicate can dictate different compositional styles. If I had to pick one constant I guess it would be balanced contrast, i.e. a dark tree against a light sky.

How does creating art make you feel?

It feels great when what you're creating works, yet terrible when you're struggling with a painting. It can be an emotional rollercoaster.



RockEm SockEm

What is the best part about working with oil paints?

I use oil paints in the final stage of a painting. Oils give the look of permanence and richness like nothing else.



What do you wish you knew about painting before you got started?

Having a crystal ball would be useless for an artist. There really isn't any format, you just have to love painting and never stop even during the bad times.

Locations for C. Sneary's work

Gugliotta Gallery & Portrait Atelier

"Face Lifts & Twists". Opening: Dec. 11th, 4-7pm
Show ends Jan. 21, 2012. Phone: 727-455-1510
Historic 8th Ave. #104B, Pass-a-Grille, FL 33706

The Donna Gordon Gallery

"Beach, Beach, Beach". Opening: Jan. 14th, 5:30-8:30
Show ends April 11, 2012. Phone: 727-827-2811
625 Central Ave., St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art

Abstract and Figurative Paintings
Continuous/Gift Shop
600 Klosterman Rd., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
727-712-5762

Peg's Cafe

Continuous Exhibit of Florida Landscapes
124 107th Ave., Treasure Island, FL 33706
727-363-7347