

## **CHRIS HERO**

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### **ONE PERSON EXHIBITIONS**

- 2004 "The Westside Shrine", Unitarian/Universalist Church of Santa Monica, CA  
2000 "Roadside Shrines", Academy Gallery, New Orleans, LA.  
1998 Broward Community College, West Campus Gallery, Broward, FL.  
1995 Wiseman Gallery, Rogue Community College, Grants Pass, OR.  
1994 Sacred Grounds Gallery, San Pedro, CA  
"I Live in L.A. ?", Artemisia Gallery, Chicago IL  
"Riots and Other Outrages," Ventura College Art Gallery, Ventura, CA.  
1991 "Dead Jesuits and Difficult Authority Figures,"  
California State University, Long Beach, CA  
1990 "Landscapes Seen from California," Cafe Roma, New Orleans, LA

### **Three Person Exhibition**

- 1993 "VICTIM(IZER)S," John Thomas Gallery, Santa Monica, CA

### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2004 "Personal Perspectives", Emeritus College Gallery, Santa Monica, CA  
2003 "Alabama Hills & Manzanar", Vincent Price Gallery, East LA College, CA  
2000 "Christmas Miniatures Exhibition", Academy Gallery, New Orleans, LA.  
1998 Valencia Community College Invitational, Orlando, FL  
1997 "Caroline in the City" Feb. 18, 1997; NBC Television episode  
1996 "Exhibits...", MWP Editorial, Saddler Fine Arts, Hollywood CA,  
"dp Salon", Saddler Fine Arts, Venice, CA.  
Gascon Center Theater, Culver City, CA.  
1995 "Openings," Riverside Arts Foundation, Contemporary Access  
Riverside, CA.  
"Caroline in the City" Sept. 19th, 1995; NBC Television episode  
Mean Art Tent, 1995 Lollapalooza Festival Tour  
"California Artists: The Landscape," RacheleLozzi Gallery  
Los Angeles, CA  
1994 "Faculty Exhibition," Art Institute of Southern California,  
Laguna Beach, CA  
1993 "Commemoration II," Loyola Gallery Downtown, New Orleans, LA  
"Mad River Post, Fall 93 Group Show," Saddler Fine Arts,  
Santa Monica, CA  
"Small Works International," Amos Eno Gallery, New York, NY  
"1993 Los Angeles Juried Exhibition," Barnsdale Arts Park,  
Los Angeles, CA  
"American West Coast Censorship Exhibition," Sacramento, CA  
"Drawings Coast to Coast," Rockville Arts Place, Rockville, MD  
"19th Westmoreland Art National," Westmoreland Community College,  
Youngwood, PA  
1990 "Group 390," California State University, Long Beach, CA  
1989 "Group 289," California State University, Long Beach, CA  
1985 "Summer Group of Five," Academy Galleries, New Orleans, LA  
1983,84,85 "Annual Student Exhibition," New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts,  
New Orleans, LA

ARTICLES AND REVIEWS

- 2000 "Tranquil still lifes conceal anguish over lives cut short", The Times-Picayune, Doug MacCash, September 15, 2000
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- "Roadside Shrines, Long Distance", Gambit Weekly, D. Eric Bookhart. September 19, 2000
- New Orleans in a Minute, Channel 26, WGNO, New Orleans, LA, television news spot, Sept. 3, 2000
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- New Orleans in a Minute, Channel 26, WGNO, New Orleans, LA, television news spot, Sept. 27, 2000
- 1998 "Attention Grabbers," The Miami Herald, Lycia Naff, January 18, 1998
- 1996 "Personal Favorites", Emeritus College Schedule of Classes, Edna Flores, Spring 1996, Santa Monica, CA
- 1995 "Hero exhibit incites petition for removal," The Byline, M. A. Krol Jr., May 16, 1995, Grants Pass, OR
- Eyewitness News, Channel 2/Channel 5, KOB1/KOTI., Medford OR four (4) minute evening news spot, April 11, 1995
- "Focus on abuse of power marks unsettling art," Grants Pass Daily Courier, Kathleen Alaks, April 13, 1995
- article in production, Z-Magazine, Paul Von Bloom
- " 'Openings' lets people get with it - art, that is." The Press-Enterprise, Pat O'Brien, September 24, 1995, Riverside CA
- 1994 "Ventura College's Galleries Feature Art With an Agenda," Los Angeles Times/Ventura County, Josef Woodard, April 21, 1994
- 1993 "Local Gallery Presents the Unpresentable," The Latest Issue, D. Oldham, Mid June Issue, 1993, Sacramento, CA
- 1992 "People's Hero," Culver City Star, Geoff Maleman, August 5, 1992
- 1990 "Pizzazz at Cafe Roma," The Times-Picayune, Gene Bourg, Nov. 16, 1990
- 1989 "New Artists at the Academy," The Times-Picayune, R. Green, Aug. 12, 1982

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 1994 Honorable Mention, GreatWallsUnlimited, Mural Program, Venice, CA
- 1993 Gold Award, Discovery 1993, Art of California magazine, Jan. 1994
- 1992,93, Semi-Finalist, Great Walls Unlimited, Mural Program, Venice, CA
- 1991 Marilyn Werby Memorial Scholarship award, California State University, Long Beach, CA
- 1988 "Re-Attribution of the Book of Kells to a Non-Irish Monastery" Art History Research Competition, California State University, Long Beach

EDUCATION

- 1987-92, California State University, Long Beach, M.F.A., 1992, Drawing and Painting
- 1981-86, New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts, Painting and Drawing
- 1975-82, Loyola University, New Orleans, LA; B.A., History 1982
- 1979-80, Tulane School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA, Paramedic Training Program
- 1975-79, Naval Reserve Officers Training Program, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Art classes taught include Beginning Drawing, Survey of the Arts, Urban Landscape Painting and Drawing, Advanced/Experimental Drawing, Beginning Painting, Introduction to Studio Arts, Intermediate Life Drawing, Intermediate and Advanced Life Painting

1998-present, Lecturer, Art Department, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA,

1994-present, Instructor, Emeritus College, Santa Monica City College, Santa Monica, CA,

1994 Instructor, Art Institute of Southern California, Laguna Beach, CA

1993 Instructor, Art Department, California State University, Long Beach, CA 1990  
Instructor, Art Department, California State University, Long Beach, CA

1990 & 91, Teaching Assistant, Art Department, California State University, Long Beach, CA

1982-83, Inservice Training Officer, St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office, Emergency Medical Section, Chalmette, LA

1980-82, Emergency Medical Technician Instructor, State of Louisiana

## BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

- Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, April 22nd, 1957.
  - 1961-75, attended private and parochial elementary and secondary schools.
  - 1966- Sold my first painting in a New Orleans Art Association auction
  - 1971-75, enrolled in high school Junior Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps.
  - 1975-82, enrolled in Loyola University, New Orleans; B.A.(History),1982
  - .1975-79, Midshipman, Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps  
Tulane University, New Orleans
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- 1977-78, member and Loyola University Branch Chairman, The Mardi Gras Coalition, a volunteer emergency medical aid service in New Orleans, LA
  - 1978, became a Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician while working at Charity Hospital Ambulance Service, New Orleans, LA
  - 1979, NROTC Summer Cruise, U.S.S. Barry, Atlantic Coast of United States
  - 1979, Resigned from Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps
  - 1979, earned a National Paramedic License at Tulane School of Medicine, Paramedic Training Program.
  - 1979, employed as a EMT-Paramedic by the New Orleans Police Department, New Orleans, LA
  - 1980, reported a police officer for brutality and was fired by N.O.P.D.
  - 1981, part time employment with Medic One Ambulance Service terminated due to N.O.P.D. blacklisting
  - 1981, began attending the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts.
  - 1981, employed by Saint Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office Emergency Medical Service during a period of police officer drug protection scandals.
  - 1981, successful legal action against the New Orleans Police Department through offices of local police misconduct attorneys.
  - 1982, shift supervisor and Inservice Training officer, Saint Bernard Parish Sheriffs Office
  - 1984, laid off due to budget cuts from the Saint Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office
  - 1984, organized and lead uninstructed life drawing sessions at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts, New Orleans, LA
  - 1985, first major exhibition of art work, Academy Galleries, New Orleans, La.

- 1985, last enrollment in the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts
- 1986, moved to Los Angeles so that my wife, Dorothy, could begin working in the film and television industry
- 1986, passed the Los Angeles County Paramedic Exam but decided to leave the emergency medical professions
- 1986-88, employed as file clerk with a LA title insurance company.
- 1986, present, rented studio space in a cooperative studio in Los Angeles.
- 1986, began work on a series of paintings related to my ambulance experiences and issues of police brutality
- 1987, allowed my Paramedic license to lapse
- 1987, began graduate school in Fine Arts, California State University, Long Beach, CA
- 1988, birth of our first child, when my wife returned to work I had primary care of our daughter, with a playpen set up in the studio for a year
- 1989-95, Founding member, Our Kids COOP, a nonprofit family daycare, serving several terms as President/Facilitator and Maintenance Officer
- 1992, M.F.A. degree from California State University at Long Beach, CA
- 1993, Birth of our second child and continuing in the role of primary care giver for both children
- 1993, Part time Instructor, Art Department, California State University Long Beach.
- 1994, Part time stagehand on Los Angeles theatrical and musical productions  
Part time teaching positions with Art Institute of Southern California, Laguna Beach, CA
- 1995, Part time teaching positions Santa Monica City College, Santa Monica CA
- 1995-96, Producing on-air artwork for the character 'Richard Karensky' on the NBC Television show "Caroline in the City",
- 1997, Ten weeks spent in rural Co.Galway, Republic of Ireland
- 1998-2002, Part time teaching positions, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles CA
- 1998, began a new body of work, "Roadside Shrines" to replacing the large figural compositions that my then reputation was based on
- 1998-2000, PTA Board Member, John Muir Elementary, Santa Monica, CA
- 2001, Theater scrim, "Xanadu", Mid-West Tool and Die Co., Los Angeles CA  
Mural "John Muir's Growing Tree", John Muir Elementary, Santa Monica, CA
- 2003, Co-Chair, John Muir Elementary School Site Governance Committee, Santa Monica, CA
- 2003, Landscape Painting Workshop in Morro Bay, CA, Morro Bay, CA

**COMMISSIONS AND SELECTED COLLECTIONS**

**Mr. and Mrs. Gil Sommerfield, Malibu, CA**  
**Ms. Gary Baker New Orleans, LA**  
**Dr. Mike Jaffe, Salt Lake City, UT**  
**Political Poster: Algiers Justice Fund, New Orleans, LA**  
**Mr. and Mrs. James Lynch, San Jose, CA**  
**Ms. Ann Johnson, Los Angeles, CA**  
**"Caroline in the City", CBS Entertainment, Studio City, CA**  
**Ms. Robyn Palmer, Los Angeles, CA**  
**Mural, Graham Engineering, New Orleans, LA**  
**Law Offices of Mark Witzes, Seal Beach, CA**  
**Dr. and Mrs. Michael Halle, Washington, DC**  
**Law Offices of Howell and Bayer, New Orleans, LA**  
**New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts, New Orleans, LA**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cook, Sparks, NV**  
**"Magalock", A Suite of paintings for Securitron Inc., Sparks, NV**  
**Ms. Laura Rinehart, Rochester, NY**  
**Ms. Maureen O'Niell, New York, NY**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Steven Fishman, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA**  
**Mr. Josh Dimonstein, Palo Alto, CA**  
**Theater scrim "Xanadu", Mid-West Tool and Die, Los Angeles, CA**  
**Ms. Amy Stone, Mar Vista, Los Angeles, CA**  
**Mr. Richard Harris, Los Angeles, CA**  
**Ms. Susan Sackett, Los Angeles, CA**  
**Mrs. Cecilia Brunswieg, Los Angeles, CA**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Chris Flinders, Venice, CA**  
**Ms. Patricia Morilta, Santa Monica, CA**  
**Dr. Ervin Kovacs, Santa Monica, CA**  
**Ms. Barbara Olinger, Venice, CA**  
**Ms. Gail Bauer, Santa Monica, CA**  
**Ms. Anais Mittenburg, Los Angeles, CA**  
**Mr. and Mrs Clay Pendergast, Los Angeles, CA**  
**Ms. Elenor Belser, Los Angeles, CA**

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### **Artist's Statement**

I am a figurative painter who feels the need to speak to the social issues of our day. I address my work to an audience skilled at avoiding issues that could lead to personal discomfort or responsibility. Modern art audiences are "trained" to see only the aesthetic aspect of an image without considering the contents of the image. This training can be sidestepped when the beauty of the object contains an ugliness--a confrontational imagery-- to shock the viewer out of their conditioned responses to art.

I have found that I am constantly trying to reinvent the wheel of mural scale narrative painting. That wheel was "perfected" in the Christian religious art of Western Europe but has been "lost" for many years. How can the art forms of the Catholic Church of five hundred years ago retain any validity in addressing the largely secular issues that beset us today? That art was meant to carry a propagandistic message to an illiterate audience; an audience that often did not have even a verbal language in common with the artists or their sponsors. The images found in the great churches of Europe were able to communicate a complex liturgy to their public. That public was able to take from these images differing levels of understanding ranging from a simple aesthetic recognition to profound revelation. Just as those pictorial structures were successful then, I believe that they can be adapted to the equally complex messages of late twentieth century social dilemma.

My figurative work secularizes the structure religious art and uses it to display the sources and consequence of violence in the modern world. In this process, I will discover how an art image interacts with its surrounding space. Religious art of the past was often site specific; a particular church or cathedral and particular wall was known to the artist. In today's world, all spaces are more ambiguous. My work tries to keep the painting's internal message constant while the space around it changes.

My most important goal in creating these works is to open a dialogue with the viewing public and again make the traditional painting that I love a viable medium for social change.