

Wikipedia talk:Articles for creation/Dan R Parfait

Dan R Parfait (June 27, 1957 –) is an American artist. He creates his works on boards, paper, and canvas in a variety of media. He has also written numerous short stories, novellas, graphic novels, political satire illustrations, caricatures and a at least one screenplay. Most of his creations contain hidden imagery and puns which are significant only to a few. His illustrations have been used in greeting cards, invitations, as illustrative slides at scientific symposia, as well as for personal appreciation and ^[1]. He is also known for his bookmarks (in ink and watercolor)which he often leaves as a gift in random situations such as with a tip at restaurants.

Biography

Parfait was born in Winshire, Texas in 1957 into profound poverty where he was raised primarily by his grandparents (along with numerous siblings) after their father abandoned them. In his early school years, he attended either barefoot or in poorly fitting hand-me-down shoes and in shirts hand made from flour sack bags.

His talent for illustrations and story-telling was apparent at a young age but though he desired to study art seriously, he was oppressed by the combination of Old South prejudices against "white trash" Cajun ancestry. With desperate finances, opportunities eluded him though he did have encouragement from various teachers in school. After winning several artistic entries in local contests, greater recognition was never attained. Bitter and angry, he escaped his situation by quitting High School to enter the military which broadened his world view and enlightened his thinking. He is a Viet Nam Era veteran and although it is rare that he is willing to discuss his experiences. He is a blackbelt in tae kwon do and Shotokan Karate as well as familiarity in other styles of combat.

In the mid 1970's he left the military to live with a relative in the Los Angeles area. This same relative had served in the 101st Airborne with Patrick Nagel and introduced the two at a fund-raiser dinner party. Nagel took interest in the young artist after seeing a few Polaroids of some graffiti and a few sketches which Parfait's relative brought with him secretly. Parfait was currently surviving financially at the time, by giving private dancing lessons, as an escort while occasionally modeling for various other artists and photographers hoping to learn where he could. It was during this time that Parfait was living hard and recklessly during which time he met film star Sybil Danning. He is alleged to have had a brief but torrid love affair with Danning as well as other starlets and models. Nagel attempted to influence Parfait's work, guiding the young, life-hardened artist by occasionally giving him work, hoping to lure him away from unscrupulous exploitation and a dead-end lifestyle.

Shortly after Nagel's death in 1984, Parfait all but abandoned his art, seemingly dropping off the Earth until entering the field of construction, becoming a master electrician and contractor. During this time he met movie special effects creator artist, Athony Tierney and tinkered with him on several projects. Tierney became ill and soon died of cancer, leaving Parfait once again without a mentor. Parfait married, became a Christian and had several children. Only in recent years, at the encouragement of friends, has he resumed his artwork and for a period of three years restored religious statues.

After a long career in construction, he grew tired of the waste he often saw in public and private works and began to share his ideas with friends and colleagues, who prompted him to attempt to run for U.S. Congress in 2008. He decided he would only do so under certain conditions, the largest of which was an absolute refusal to accept campaign contributions. He was met with various party officials and interviewed by several newspapers regarding his candidacy at the time but none of the interviews were ever published. The podcast, "My History Can Beat Up Your Politics" ever even mentioned him, the podcast was the first to compare Parfait with Thomas Jefferson and the podcast, "The Thomas Jefferson Hour" quoted Parfait years later in one of its programs. He began speaking to small groups but soon found himself ostracized by his party as well as other larger groups. His friends told him he had to give up on his ideals of "campaign finance reform" but he steadfastly refused and although he got a substantial amount of signatures needed to be placed on the ballot, he remained short for the deadline. He attempted again for

the 2012 elections but this time, party officials would return neither his emails or calls and for various other reasons, decided to bow out. Supporters have suggested that both parties realized that if Parfait's plan were proven successful, it might be disastrous to a lucrative system which both major parties enjoy.

In addition to his art, he is also a gifted natural tenor and though he has had no formal training, has performed in many roles for Lyric Opera Northwest in Seattle he has performed in opera, musicals, at various fund-raisers and in his church choir.

References

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[1] quite frequently for fund raisers for charitable organizations

Article Sources and Contributors

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