



ARTIST STATEMENT

Southern California artist **c.martino** is a closet conceptualist using the tools and techniques of a newbrow narrative painter to create works that surprise, provoke, and occasionally, inspire.

His intricate compositions build layer upon layer, creating complex emotional, psychological and spiritual topographies that expose the tumult of a world teetering on the brink. Do we take the great leap forward toward a brave new world, or crash and burn in the abyss at the end of history?

Materials and messages common to the urban environment – store signage, graffiti, posters, repaired and repainted walls, pop culture ephemera – permeate a fractured, apocalyptic landscape of beauty and chaos. Here, among the debris of a failing world and the first tentative intimations of a new one, the ancient and the modern bear witness to the eternal struggle for the 9-to-5 soul of Everyman.

Martino is committed to culture-jamming indifference, complacency and casual conformity wherever it lurks, using any and all means at his disposal to accomplish the goal that unifies his diverse and wide-reaching body of work:

to find the magical amidst the mundane in an increasingly generic, prepackaged world of mini-malls, master planned communities and bad reality tv.