

jonathon rosen

Extreme Graphics

Jonathon Rosen comes from Los Angeles. He studied electronic music, painting and printing back in the late seventies, early eighties. He then worked for seven years as a curator and printer of limited art printing (gravure, lithography, wood engraving, screen printing) for artists like Jean-Michel Basquiat. New York is Jonathon Rosen's home today, teaching at the New York School of Visual Arts and working as an artist, illustrator, computer animator, printer and graphic artist.

In his work he tackles an extremely wide range of themes and disputes – from everyday things and religion to spiritual and erotic.

Jonathon Rosen: "My obsession for medical textbooks, surrealism, old cartoons, robots and generally grotesque and carnival-like things enables me to extract and pillage an especially subjective layer of art history. I attempt to melt the expression of the unknown with pictures of suffering and destruction. My work is a form of personal iconography and archaeology with which, depending on the technique used – carbon paper, painting or electronic medias etc. – is deposited in various layers of sediment."

The variability of his contents can also be described formally: Jonathon Rosen manages to bring numerous, different, somewhat contradictory influences together to form a heterogeneous style that still remains recognisable.

Jonathon Rosen: "I do actually work often with the computer, but it really means a lot to me that my work comes across „organic". The viewer shouldn't realise that a computer had something to do with the end result."

Rosen's pictures aren't meant to be readable in words or to be understood ironically – he ventures into ambiguous realms, in which our awareness is continually put to the test.

In the last few years, Jonathon Rosen has made a name for himself as being a go getting illustrator and graphic artist. His work has appeared in Strapazin, Blab, The New York Times, ID Magazine, Oxford Review, Psychology Today, Discover Magazine, Newsweek Japan, Time, Rolling Stone and many, many more. He has also designed record covers for various bands and record companies (Sony, Warner Brothers, RCA Records), plus videos and cartoons for MTV, he's also produced the Residents, and created the headless rider "Ichabod Cane" for Tim Burton's "Sleepy Hollow".