

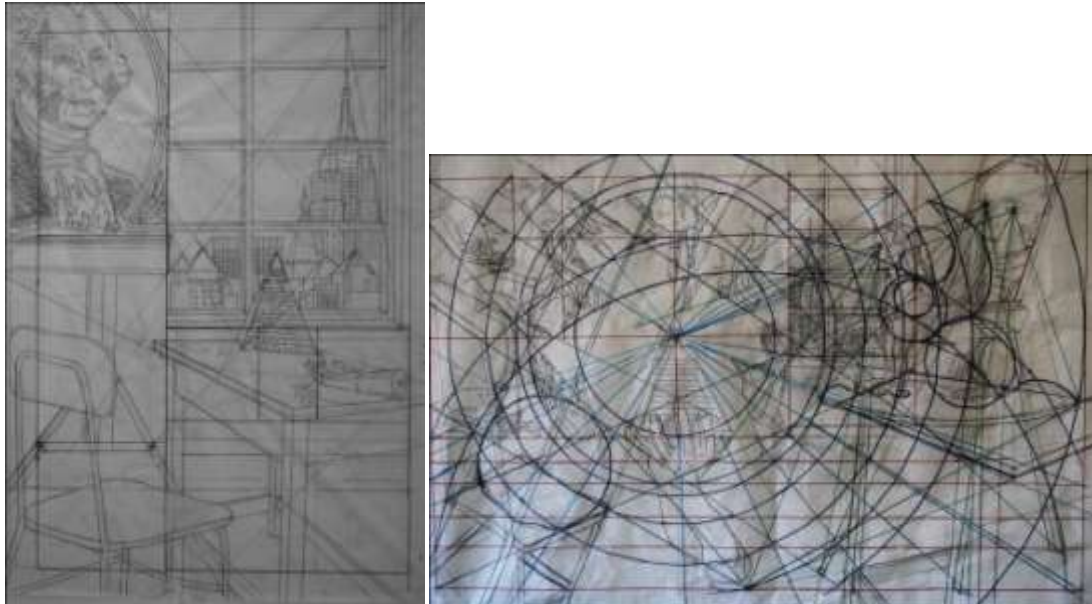
American Greed

The two pictures are a representation of one Idea. Jack Kerouac asserted that if you have an idea or thought it would find its own form. This same sentiment was expressed by Virginia Woolf when she described her process of writing. She writes not knowing the content or conclusion but knows that if she begins writing it will find its own form, reality and successful conclusion. You simply begin by following your Idea and seeing where it leads you. It is not a conscious act but an act of faith in the process of both thought and knowledge of medium.

These two works are in response to the appalling greed that fueled the current financial and national/global crisis. It seems that without regulation some wish to profit at others expense and become blind or uncaring to the consequences of their actions. They see only what they want and become slaves of their desires and serve only their own greed. We have witnessed to great extent what these actions have had (cost) to millions of people and their nations. Once dominate nations harvested resources and wealth from other nations and now corporations harvest resources and wealth from the global community. It is a variation on the old destructive theme of colonial capitalism. To end this socialist diatribe I will return to the paintings.

The paintings have taken two forms. The painting on the left represents left hemispheric dominance while the painting on the right represents right hemispheric dominance. The painting on the right was painted first during a period of an unusually high hypo-manic state that usually occurs in the spring and the painting on the left originated during the intensely depressive state of the winter months. A simple definition of the bi-polar mind is impairment to one hemisphere of the brain that shifts from side to side in usually regular cycles. When the left hemisphere is impaired the individual is operating primarily in the right hemisphere which is the creative manic state closely associated with the subconscious and the unconscious dream. When the right is impaired the brain is predominantly functioning in the left hemisphere which is the state of depression and the conscious overly analytical mind. In the left hemisphere information/thoughts are disconnected and fragmented and when the shift to the right hemisphere occurs the information/thoughts are reconnected in different patterns and associations so the way one thinks is entirely different from cycle to cycle. The cycle becomes useful to the artist providing information is continually being fed to the mind where it will be constantly mixed and remixed creating new forms and thoughts. It all sounds good on paper but the bipolar has a tendency to attempt or to kill one self from time to time. So back to the paintings

The easiest way to see the differences is in the drawings.



The composition on the right is more expansive and interconnected. Every element or aspect of the drawing is connected to single and multiple radiating points. The imagery dialog is much more heavily connected. On the left the composition is fragmented and each element is isolated in separate boxes of reoccurring shape. The activeness of the drawing is greatly reduced compared to the drawing on the right.



The imagery on the right is more unedited as in a dream state or surrealistic. The image on the left is more factual, quieter and realistic in representation compared to the more agitated active imagery of the painting on the right. The painting on the left is darker and static which is reflective of the depressive state and the painting on the right is lighter and more active reflective of the hypomanic/manic state.

The Symbols are essentially the same in both paintings. Washington and the pyramid are auspicious symbols found on the dollar bill. One side proclaims a new beginning blessed by god and the other side represents the old European system of colonialism. They are opposites that have never seemingly been reconciled but have taken on new form in the 20th and 21st century.

In the painting on the left I have included the 13 rayed half sun that was on Washington's chair during the forming of the constitutional structure of the then new nation. Myth has it that Franklin asked the question as to whether it was a rising or setting sun. In the empire cityscape I have painted a simultaneous rising and setting sun. The distant sky is the orange of a sunset or sunrise and the illuminating light on the buildings appear to be coming from the opposite direction indicating a rising or setting sun. In this composition I have included a single hand reaching for what greed desires but can never obtain.

In the composition on the right several hands are reaching and they all have eyes. Greed sees only what it wants. The exceptions are the religious hands. From Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel is the hand of god misinterpreted blessing of "the new endeavor" and the crucified hand that teaches ethical behavior. The sphinx represents the riddle, mystery and reasoning of human events.

The only real truth of these paintings is the setting of the studio. It simply represents what is contained in the artists mind. Most would be blind to the reasoning or the symbols and without explanation would not understand the confusing imagery. The problem in these paintings is I have not found a universal language or set of symbols capable of communicating ideas and thoughts. The paintings stand by themselves separated from the context of my thoughts to be interpreted by the viewer's thoughts.