Artist's Statement

Since childhood I have been fascinated by the magic of art. I watched my older brother create fantastic comic book figures as I stared in amazement. My heart palpitated as he put his pencil to a blank piece of paper and I saw a character emerge from his imagination and ability. My brother inspired me and my passion continued to develop. Art for me has been a way to communicate who I am and what I see.

Since childhood the art of magic has also kept me fascinated. Watching a family friend remove his thumb when I was four or five had me bewildered. Harry Blackstone performing on TV left me envious of his great power. At the age of 15, my friend Lonnie (at that time my employer) performed magic for me. His ability mystified me and I was forever changed. I saw this as a way to communicate another part of myself.

I am always excited by the common bond we all share in finding beauty in the most uncommon places and things. I see beauty and magic all around me daily, in the smile of a child, or the movement of a cloud as it sails across the sky. I see it in the miracle of a skyscraper and the cracks in the sidewalk that take form and create images. Some people see elephants in those clouds and yet others may see images in a shadow cast from a streetlight. These are all proof of art and magic present in our lives.

Art and magic have many similarities, they both rely on illusion. The artist can make you see depth where none exists. The magician will make the most unnatural motion seem natural. The way an artist can direct your eye through composition is similar to the way a magician guides your eyes through misdirection. Great art tells a story and so does great magic.

I have been making art and doing magic most of my life. I have always kept these mediums apart. I am now trying to fuse these two mediums into one unified discipline through performance art. I am combining my visual aesthetic with my ability to perform and entertain. My performance on October 13th will attempt to bring the magic of art into the art of magic.

Orlando Cuevas August 2001

Return to Walsh Library Gallery

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