

John Aaron Malone : THE GROUP SELF PORTRAITS

Much modern art takes pride in meaninglessness. It's about whatever you think it's about. It is all up to the viewer, aided of course by the intellectual speculations of curators and dealers. But this art is radically meaningful. It is specific and accurate reporting of a reality more common than has been supposed until lately - MPD, or Multiple Personality Disorder. Rogers says it should be Multiple Personality Gift because as a child if he had not been able to psychologically disconnect under sensed threat of death he may not have survived.

We are all "multiple" of course and everyone as a child has felt abused. Life is unfair. Everyone can relate, even distantly, to these unsettling pictorials. Other artists have vividly pictured their inner demons. Dali comes vividly to mind. Bosch of course. Goya's secret portfolios. Rogers in my opinion is the only one to deliberately, intentionally and clearly translate his mental reality into the visual realm in such plain and specific verity.

It is tempting to wonder if this is not a new frontier of picture making. It carries some felt thrill, conveys enough sometimes to cause viewers to see themselves and hence all reality differently ever after. This is not insignificant. I speculate that in our own society, and maybe on a wider scale too, we may see more imagery of this nature as part of an evolution of consciousness.

Most of what we see in the art arena of our new century is new only in technique and medium, the subject matter is either the same-old-same-old or so obscure as to be tedious. I think at times that the only real excitement deriving from contemporary art is among those financial and cultural elites who drive prices up after the original piece has been procured from the originator for cheap. Most of it is nothing more than novelty promoted into an exclusive popularity for wealthy dilettante speculators.

There is nothing new in this, heaven knows it is simply a fact of life in the art world. Some artists prosper, some remain in poverty, many feel cheated and resentful, sometimes genuine talent goes ignored, that is the way it is. Whether or not Rogers is ever widely acknowledged in his lifetime as a creator of startling originality and authenticity remains to be seen, but I suspect that with this website now available to the world his work may obtain the recognition that it merits.



GROUP SELF PORTRAIT #1, 1992
Oil on canvas, 48" x 60", 122 x 152.5

Foreground left to right: Mucous, Wickedey, Barbwire, Dummy,
Skinner, Torchy

Background left to right: Freeboy, Boniface, Motley Crew



GROUP SELF PORTRAIT #2, 2000
Oil on canvas, 48" x 60", 122 x 152.5



GROUP SELF PORTRAIT #3, 2005
Oil on canvas, 48" x 60", 122 x 152.5

GROUP SELF PORTRAIT #4,
2009

COMING.



Pastoral memory, from Group Self Portrait #1,
FREEBOY WITH HIS DOG, 2001
Oil on canvas. 30" x 40", 76 x 101.5 cm.

Many people find favor with this imagery. Some have
commissioned variations with their own personal
details which I have been pleased to produce.
\$10,000

Ltd. Edition (100) giclee prints available, \$250



IMMINENT DISCLOSURE

Oil on canvas, 30" x 40", 76 x 101.5 cm.

SOLD

These paintings are part of my process of obtaining consciousness of whatever there is to be conscious of. My hobby - a 24/7 lifetime obsession about nothing definite. Born in 1937, it was not until '92 that I got a break. Instead of blowing my brains out I surrendered to a perceived intangible power of infinite magnitude. This is old. Many have done this. My report is different in that it comes with illustrations.

I am reluctant to expose my inner privacy to the world but I have the sense that it is important, that there are many who long for the clarity of self knowledge, the transformative face-to-face with whatever it is that we label God, without defense, excuse or reason, the point where death and life meet, take your pick. Jesus said (if the reporting is reliable) that if you seek your own life you will lose it, if you lose your life to God you will find it. Worked for me, so if there is any benefit to be derived from examining my Group Self Portraits you are welcome to it.

Although I feel an obligation to disclose my personal inner experiences, I have no need to have more people think I am weird than already do, so my description of my inner selves, my components, is very much my own biz. I am not willing so far to provide words, I let the imagery convey what it may. It conveys very vividly to many people, of that I am certain having witnessed plenty of evidence.

We must become more conscious as a species, we are heading for mass suicide. The fools we keep on electing, the lunatics we allow to remain in control of our lives, are speeding us toward a miserable future. War, deprivation, social breakdown, all the bad stuff on a scale that can realistically doom us. But if we, run-of-the-mill ordinary citizens who have none of the privileges of power, will acquire a greater and "higher" consciousness, we will stop going along with it. Humanity at large may prevail, potentially at a level of civilization not achieved so far. I acknowledge that life will always be messy due to extreme actions of the good and evil in us all, but I think we may be near bust currently and actual change is needed without further delay. But they said the end of the world was at hand when dynamite was invented. Before that they said it about gunpowder. And maybe the flint spear point before that for all we know. For sure the atomic bomb in our own times.

I confess to optimism. I suspect that at the last minute we will overcome our own disharmonies, we will continue to thrive. Maybe. Meanwhile I'm working on it.

Jonathan Rogers