

Artist Statement: Jeremy Mark Ritch

Whether it is painting or poetry, my goal as an artist is to be genuine in my process of presenting myself to the world. My work contains my personal struggles, triumphs, fears, and comforts. Each piece I create, in whatever medium I choose is a look into my deeper self. Themes included in my art and writing include mental illness, addiction, recovery, friendship, love, hope, and the often-overlooked beauty that is found in the world around us.

My poetry is my voice. I strive to communicate themes that resonate with others who may not have the words to describe many of the struggles that exist, especially with in the realm of mental illness or addiction. I also try to work in different styles, studying the work of past and present writers, learning from each in order to sharpen my skills. I am heavily influenced by the beat generation, more so in their approach to breaking rules and speaking freely. My work has been called weird or outside the norm, but I feel it is simply poetry, the poetry of me.

My paintings and other artwork are an extension of my creative mind, blending many of the themes of my poetry with a visual element. I paint a lot of faces, from abstract to the more expressionistic portraits. I work on all kinds of materials such as canvas, wood, and cardboard. While acrylics are my main medium, I also have used spray paints, house paints and various mixed media to create pieces. My goal is to use my art to not only represent myself but speak into the world a voice for others who might share my struggles.