Educational Guide   April 6 – June 23, 2024

Kambel Smith

- **Opening Reception:**
  April 13th, 2024
  1:00 – 3:00 PM

Kambel Smith is a self-taught artist and published author based in Philadelphia, PA, who builds large-scale sculptures of historical buildings out of primarily found materials such as cardboard and foam. With no formal training in art or architecture, Smith uses a natural ability to gauge perspective and scale without measuring tools. This ability to see and recreate scale quickly propelled him into the world of fine art where he has done various solo and group exhibitions.

Smith was diagnosed with **autism** as a teenager and began making art to express his worldview. However, Smith doesn't define himself as autistic, but rather an **Autisarian** whose special ability is making art. Along with his sculptures he has created over 500 oil paintings and drawings, the subject of many being his own original characters that have been published in graphic novels.

Kambel Smith, *Lady Liberty*, Cardboard, packing paper, duct tape, foil, paper, spray paint, ink, graphite, hot glue, and paper mache

Smith states, "I am proud to say I am an artist. Although my journey has been a complicated one, it gives me peace of mind and heart to realize I have always been an artist. The spoken word has never been my preferred method of communication, so my challenge is to create art that expresses my passion and clearly speaks to others. This challenge is met by my inexhaustible desire to recreate the world around me through my lens. By using works of art to express how I see the world I hope to impact the way others see it as well."

Kambel Smith transitioned to building sculptures from cardboard and other found materials after he ran out of canvas for his oil paintings. He creates these sculptures out of his family home in Germantown, in which part of the house is dedicated to housing his art. He begins each piece by finding photos of famous monuments and buildings on the internet then

Kambel Smith, *Chinatown Arch*, Cardboard, wood rods, foamcore, spray paint, gold leaf, and packing paper

transforms them into the 3-D art pieces. Smith can often be seen on his front lawn adding paint and finishing touches to his sculptures with his headphones in, as he considers music to be an integral part of his artistic process. Each sculpture takes months to complete and includes intricate details of the landmarks he recreates.

Kambel Smith's work is currently curated by Marlborough Museum and has been displayed both nationally and internationally at the Philadelphia International Airport, Fleisher/Ollman Gallery, Elaine de Kooning House, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, and Marlborough in London. Many of his pieces have been sold to various museums, collections, and private investors, including his rendition of the Philadelphia Eagles Lincoln Financial Field.

Check out Kambel Smith's exhibit at the Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University in Atlantic City from April 6 to June 23, 2024.

To learn more about Kambel Smith and his work, visit: www.autisarian.com

The Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University · http://www.noyesmuseum.org · (609) 626-3420
The Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University · www.artsgarageac.com · (609) 626-3805
Check us out on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube

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Glossary:

Autism Spectrum Disorder: A neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, learn, and behave. (Source: National Institute of Mental Health https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/autism-spectrum-disorders-asd)

Autisarian: A term coined by Kambel Smith's family, an Autisarian is a person born with super-human abilities due to the condition called autism. His family also created a non-profit organization called Autisarian that is dedicated to "changing the face of autism by changing the attitude of those challenged by the so-called disorder." (Source: www.autisarian.com)