



hamiltonian artists

building a solid foundation for innovative artists

Jonathan Monaghan

www.jonmonaghan.com · info@jonmonaghan.com

Art/Soc Bldg, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742 · (516) 233 7452

I research things like Gothic architecture, medieval paintings, Baroque altarpieces, heraldry and Christian allegories. Many times I make journeys, pilgrimages you could say, to these places and things; I take photos, do drawings, and absorb myself within these archaic works. I do this because for me they represent historical underpinnings of present day society and its institutional power. I then try to re-create them within the virtual 3D world of commercial CGI software. Notions of sacrifice, corporeality of the body, presence and authority are all maintained. However, within this mediation certain things do change; I transform stone into sterile plastic, color them like candy, I bring allegorical creatures to life and fuse them with architecture while integrating other references such as Target logos and the stars and stripes. Cathedrals turn into sanitary hospital - like environments, Christian dogma transforms into a personal doctrine about contemporary experience. I act as a sort of god to these worlds, consequently they have their own logic and their own reality that is contemporaneous with ours but with an alternate handmade history. I bring these worlds out in the form of prints, animations and computer fabricated sculpture.

The work is a celebration of Pixar and Jesus, the Virgin Mary and artificial insemination, operating tables and sacrificial altars, mythical creatures and genetic engineering, the Virgin Mary and Lady Gaga, corporate logos and coats of arms, climate change and the last judgment, Dutch still life paintings and automated slaughter houses, implants and reliquaries, and of our fear and anxiety about all of this. By creating these fantasies, I'm simply instigating associations which are already there and commemorating the post-human situation in all its fantastic forms.