

Finding the Authentic Self



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My artistic career started before kindergarten, a few years after the end of WWII. I told my mother I wanted to make a book about the battle between good and evil (I still have this book). Evil was represented by a pirate ship with my preschool interpretation of the skull and crossbones drawn as an XX on the pirate boat flag. At around 4 years of age, I thought the overlapping “N” and “Y” letters of the New York Yankees baseball hats looked like a complicated and evil skull and crossbones (I hadn’t been taught the alphabet yet). The XX was my simplified version of it. I was a Brooklyn Dodger fan and the Yankees were the enemy.

At 8 years of age, I filled up a drawing book with images of the WWII Battle of Midway, with aircraft carriers, planes, and explosions everywhere. When I showed this to relatives, they laughed. I kept quiet but inside myself I said, “Don’t they realize people are dying?”

The 2D/3D constructions in this exhibition, from the late 1990s – early 2000s, were a continuation of who I am. In 2002, at the age of 58, I started the “Voice to Vision ongoing collaborative project”, working with survivors and witnesses of genocide including participants from the Holocaust, Rwanda, Cambodia, Sudan, Tibet, Bosnia, and Armenia (with grandchildren and great-grandchildren). In the past few years, we have concentrated on Latin America, from Vietnam, and Iran.

“Voice to Vision” at the University of Minnesota Library Conservancy:
<https://conservancy.umn.edu/handle/11299/163988>

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