

Casey Gurr

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Education

- Bachelor of Arts, General Art. May 1997 Boise State University, Boise, Id.
- Secondary Teacher Certification. December 2002 Boise State University, Boise, Id.
- Idaho Education Credential, Standard Secondary with Art K/12 endorsement, valid 9-1-2023.

Art Teaching Experience

- Instructor for Gem center for the Arts/ Vivid Studios. Multiple art workshops 2017-2018
- Full time Art Teacher, Eagle High School, 2004-2019
classes include; Drawing, Design, Photography, Pottery and Sculpture, Drawing and Painting, Advanced Art, and A.P. 2-D Portfolio.
- Substitute teacher, Boise and Meridian School Districts, 2002-2004
- Part time Art Teacher, Rosehill Montessori School, 2001-2003
Friday mornings and summer weeklong workshops.

Art and Professional experience

- 1993- Present. Self-employed part-time business “Gurr Studios”. Custom airbrush painting and automotive refinishing. Commissions range from murals and portraits to race car graphics and classic vehicle restoration. Formerly known as “Hired Gun”
- 1997-00- Copperhead Racing Full time position. Lead painter / Custom graphics painter. Complete body and paint restoration of classic automobiles.
- 1995-97 L & L T-Shirts – Production Screen printing of designs on shirts and apparel.

Recent Contests, Shows, Grants, Awards

- Farmaker 2013– 1st place in category. 1 hour sketches / project Daedalus.. See farmaker.com.

- Modern Art 2014– “Rendezvous” installation in the yearly Modern Hotel “Modern Art” event.
- Cosmos, Imagining the Universe- 2015. Annmarie Art Center in Maryland. “Singularity”
- Surel’s Place and Cinder Winery Garden City Mural, Final round show. 2015
- Alexa Rose Foundation Grant to attend “Airbrush Getaway” workshops in 2015.
- Art Source Gallery Annual Juried Show 2015. 3D relief print “Rendezvous”
- Airbrush and Pinstripe showdown at the All Valley Championship Show and Shine. 2016.
- IAEA “Walking the fine line Artists as Educators” show. 2016. Four prints in the show.
- Art Source Gallery “Treasure Valley Art Teachers” Show. 2016. two ceramic pieces, one print and one painting.
- Alexa Rose Foundation Grant Recipient Show. 2015-2016.
- Judge on selection committee for Alexa Rose Foundation Grant 2017 and 2018.
- Meridian Art Drop during Meridian Art Week. 2017.
- Fine Art Miniature Show Finer Frames Gallery. 2017.
- Judge for City of Eagle Small Art Show. 2018.
- TVAA and Nampa Civic Center “No Filter” Gallery exhibit. 2018.
- Día los Muertos Steam roller printmaking event at the Boise J.U.M.P. center 2018.
- Project “2417”. Major creator for an interactive art experience 2018-19. Gem Center for the Arts.
- Gem Center for the Arts mural space. Awarded 2018. Painted 2019.

Organizational membership

- National and Idaho Art Education Associations. Member since 2001.
- International Association of Astronomical Artists. Member Since 2016.
- TVAA. Treasure Valley Artist Association. Member Artist 2017-19.
- Gem Center for The Arts. Member since 2017.

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About the Artist

Like any artist you might talk to I have been interested in creating since I was very young. My love of drawing in my youth lead me into a more serious pursuit of art. I received my bachelor's in arts from Boise State University. After some time working as an airbrush artist and automotive refinisher, I returned to Boise State to become a certified art teacher.

I spent fifteen years as a full-time art teacher at Eagle High School while I also teaching art classes and creating commissioned work through my business Gurr Studios. As an art teacher I taught a variety of subjects such as drawing, design, painting, printmaking, and ceramics. I was fortunate to get to work with young people and teach techniques in lots of different materials.

My creative process usually involves painting. I enjoy printmaking and throwing pots as well, but my real focus is painting. The work surfaces range from cars, motorcycles and t-shirts to canvases and murals. The paintings are mostly created using an airbrush. An airbrush is like a can of spray paint or an automotive spray gun, but it is the size of a pencil. The airbrush is a challenging tool to master. An artist can cut stencils to create or use the gun in a "free-hand" method. Cutting stencils gets tedious and can make it hard for me to keep focused on the project. I almost totally gave up using the tool in my early years because of this. After seeing that it was possible to gain enough control to draw with the airbrush, and even create pencil thin lines and details, I gained a new interest and practiced until painting with the airbrush felt as normal as drawing with a stick of charcoal. I still employ some stenciling or shielding, and some parts may be painted with a regular brush, but the airbrush is my most important tool.

Subject matter and themes involving astronomy and the human form show up again and again in my work. No doubt a result of too many sci-fi reruns as a kid. The topic fascinates me. I am constantly in awe of the complexity and weirdness of the universe. If I see a landscape, I am thinking of painting it as Mars. Figures I draw become clad in spacesuits. Stars become subjects of textured impasto paintings. For me, my work becomes a meditation on the nature of the universe as our understanding of it grows. I dwell upon our place in it and where we may go as our species evolves as part of it. What is it like out there? Can we go play in it?