

## **RICH SHEAFFER**

***SPECIALIZING IN SOCIO-POLITICAL ABSTRACTIONISM: UNIQUE EXPRESSIONS OF TODAY'S ISSUES***

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### **ART EDUCATION**

I am self-taught with no formal training in art, providing me with no basis and no bias of educators upon which to create my artwork. The result is that what I paint is not based on what I have been taught by others; rather, all of my artwork is abstractual, based on what I see and what I dream.

*"Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught."* – Oscar Wilde

### **ARTIST STATEMENT AND EXPERIENCE**

*Since the events of 2016 and beyond, Rich Sheaffer has been developing a new genre of art he calls Socio-Political Abstractionism. While political art has abounded in the past, it has generally taken the form of such things as cartoons and caricatures. Socio-Political Abstractionism, in contrast, is an art form in which hot-button social topics being divisively debated in the political milieu are "abstractionized" and expressed via painting in abstract form, to inspire thought and discussion. Such works are primitive expressions of dreams or visions that express the events and angst of our time in history. His works are experimental and inspired by current events; he never knows from the onset how the final work will appear. When events are so outrageous that he is left with a loss for words ... he paints. Rich is active with the Artists Guild of the San Diego Museum of Art, the Artist Alliance of the Oceanside Museum of Art, and others. Please refer to [www.RichSheaffer.com](http://www.RichSheaffer.com) for a full explanation of art experience and for a listing of works in exhibitions.*

### **ARTWORK DRIVING FORCES: MISSION, VISION, VALUES AND ART OBJECTIVES**

**Mission Statement:** By leveraging art's ability to affect its viewers, encourage thought, discussion and debate to achieve positive changes in society, government and politics. Where basic human decency is lacking in politics and darkness seems to be temporarily prevailing, expose it and shine a light on it.

**Vision Statement:** See the world become a better place for all, using the power of art to increase kindness, respect, compassion and empathy in our interactions with one another, especially in the political process.

**Values Statement:** By artistic expression, foster, promote, and embody these values for the betterment of humanity: creativity and innovation, honesty and integrity, diversity and uniqueness, awareness and thoughtfulness, courageousness and perseverance.

**Art Objectives:** Have fun and change the world for the better while I'm doing it. Maintain uniqueness and avoid changing my work based on the critiques and criticisms of others.

### **ADDITIONAL EDUCATION, PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND RECOGNITION**

Education in Electrical Engineering and Business Management (BSEE, MSEE and MBA), along with more than 43 years of experience in the electric utility industry, have provided me with many transferable "soft skill" experiences involving creativity and breakthroughs, as well as challenging conventions and norms, that I bring to the fields of art and writing. Biographical listings in "Who's Who in America" and many similar publications. "Lifetime Achiever" recognition from Marquis Who's Who.

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