Victoria Koenig

CTK 201

Artist Presentation: Android Jones

Android jones was born in 1977 in Lyons Colorado. His journey with art started at the age of eight, when he graduated high school be attended the Ringling School of Art and Design where he studied traditional drawing, painting and animation. He also worked as an intern at George Lucas’ Industrial Light and Magic. His independent career creating his now famous art began in 2005. His digital art style is very original and is usually described as “psychedelic” and “spiritual”. Not only is he a digital artist but he also creates experiences for viewers in live performances and videos, this work was featured in the Grateful Dead’s farewell tour and even projected onto the Sydney Opera House and Empire State building. His work has also regularly been featured at the Burning Man festival. Jones also collaborates with his Wife Phaedra Ana to create dance performances with this art creating improvised synchronizations to her dances.

Android Jones has been asked many times what inspires such in depth detailed creations of art and his answers always fall along the same line as his artist statement from 2013, he states “I have seen things in this life that I am incapable of translating into words. In my practice I have visited realms where the imagination ends, and the terrifying beauty of infinity unfolds over and over again. If I could distill into words exactly what motivates me to create the art that I make, then it would not be worth making it. Instead, I have chosen the pen.” He continues on to say “Honestly I don’t know why I make this are or what compels me to keep creating it; it’s a mystery I intend to pursue for the rest of my life and each image brings me closer to the ultimate truth”. With this he has also stated multiple times that his art is his own form of spirituality.

Although he has a very vast gallery, his most popular digital paintings are his dreamlike portraits. Even though most of his portraits contain different themes and color palettes the defining “android jones” features are his use of texture and layers paired with creating strong and ethereal feelings from his portraits. In almost all of his portraits the viewer has to take more time to go through his whole creation to see all of the small details he puts into his art.

One specific public art piece that sticks out to me was the 2014 Massive Climate Change Projections at the United Nations Headquarters. This video was projected on the New York United Nations buildings during the United Nations General Assembly to call for a climate action. This video was a 30-story projection depicting several different animal species that have become extinct and endangered. This stuck out to me because in the recording we are able to see the real time impact this art is having on the people of New York.