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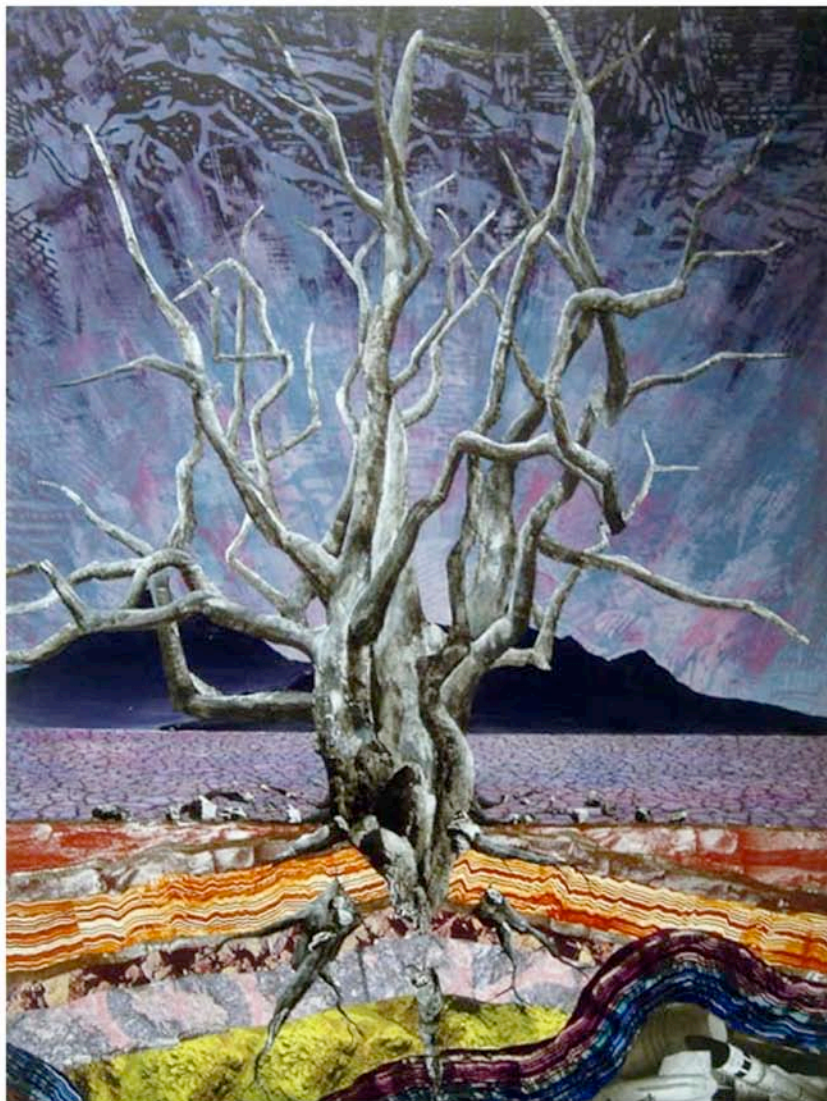
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SPRAYGRAPHIC INTERVIEW WITH ARTSIT ADAM FRIEDMAN

By Spraygraphic | May 11, 2009



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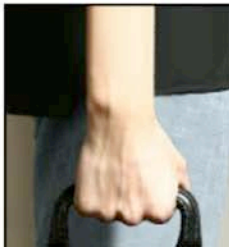


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[Spraygraphic](#) Interview with [Adam Friedman](#)

SG: Please tell us about yourself?

AF: I was born in Nevada in 1983 and I've lived up and down the west coast. Did my undergrad at the University of Oregon, and grad school at the SF Art Institute.

SG: Where do you currently live and work?

AF: I live in SF... in the Haight with my wonderful partner, Josi. My studio is in the Mission District at [Root Division](#) (an arts and arts education organization), where I work as the Youth Education Coordinator and teach screen printing to adults. I also teach with City Studio at the San Francisco Art Institute, as well as a few other locations.

SG: What mediums do you work with?

AF: I use a variety of different materials in my “paintings.” I primarily work on wood panels. I screenprint directly on the panel in a more painterly fashion... and more traditionally on Japanese Mulberry paper for collage purpose. I paint into the imagery with a variety of acrylic paints, glazes, and mediums. But yeah... heavy on the collage and painting.

SG: Describe your working process when creating a new work.

AF: Once I know what I want the piece to address specifically, I draw a ton of little thumbnails in my sketchbook. The drawings are quick and pretty terrible... but after I do enough of them I can settle on a composition that I like and work from there. But the process really depends on the piece. Sometimes I can spend a week prepping screens and printing... and sometimes I can print, collage and paint all in one day.

SG: What kind of things do you do when you get blocked or find it hard to create something?

AF: At this point I'm pretty busy balancing work, life, and my studio practice... so I don't really have enough time to get “blocked” or have a lack of ideas. I have dozens of paintings that I'd like to finish, and creating the time can be the biggest challenge. I can however be indecisive at times about stupid things like what color to chose, etc.... I'm lucky to have some pretty awesome artists as studio neighbors, so I can always ask for their opinion.

SG: Where are you currently finding your inspiration?

AF: I read a lot... and that really drives my work. John McPhee, Edward Abbey, Bill Bryson, Derrick Jensen, to name a few. I love rocks, trees, dirt, water, trying to understand the world from a geologic perspective of time, the half-lives of human creations, nature's incredible power to reclaim itself. I also like to hike, camp, ride my bike, spend time with my love and friends, listen to good music, drink good bourbon, etc. All of those things tend to inspire me.

SG: Where has your work been seen?

AF: Recently at Root Division, Intersection for the Arts, Auto Body Fine Art, Pro Arts Gallery and a few other Bay Area venues. Also just had a few pieces in some online galleries... Caladan Gallery (Cambridge, MA) and Jay Kay / Reflect Arts (NY, Switzerland).

SG: Where will it be seen next?

AF: I'm going to have pieces in auctions at Intersection for the Arts and Southern Exposure in the next couple months. Other than that... I'm working on some shows for fall that I won't say more about because I don't want to jinx them.

SG: What is your dream art assignment?

AF: I would love to be able to travel around the world to points of interest and gather a lot of source material (photos, sketches, experiences, etc). Then come home to SF and have the time and resources to focus everyday and create a body of really large paintings.

SG: What is your favorite color?

AF: Black, if you count that as a color. Lately I've been really into Prussian Blue and Alizaran Crimson.

SG: Who is your favorite artist? And Why?

AF: That's tough... there a too many great artists out there. I've always loved romantic landscape painters like Thomas Cole, Caspar David Friedrich, John Constable, Albert Bierstadt, etc. A lot of my favorite artists' work looks nothing like mine... but I really dig Charlie White, Edward Burtynsky, Tim Hawkinson, Max Ernst... All of my friends and peers are making some pretty ruling art too.

Music... Sun Ra, Ornette Coleman, King Crimson, Can, Sleep, Sabbath, Pentagram, Suffocation, Slum Village, Johnny Clarke, Reinforced Records, etc.

SG: What book/magazine are you reading this week?

AF: “The Control of Nature” by John McPhee. And I'm always reading all kinds of online art blogs and magazines.

SG: Ever do a self portrait? Where is it now?

AF: Yeah... a few of them back in the day. They're probably at my parent's house.

SG: Where is your favorite place to hang out?

AF: Depends on the weather. SF has a bunch of great parks... the beach... my studio... at home with my lovely lady...

SG: Any final words of advice?

AF: I'm probably not the best person in the world to be giving advice... But I've found that it helps to immerse yourself in a community of good, like-minded people. Being sincere, honest, and open seems to never be a bad thing either. Thanks...

IMAGE TITLES

- 1. This Is Not A Constant Place
- 2. In the Contest Between Erosion and Orogeny
- 3. Palengensis; Chernobyl's Rebirth
- 4. Palengensis; Chernobyl's Rebirth (Detail)
- 5. Uranium's Safe Return to Ore
- 6. Endurance of the Farralons
- 7. Burning Rocks of Ore
- 8. Unnavigable Terrain

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