

Artist Feature: Marc Dennis

By Shenyah Webb



Marc Dennis, *The Arousal of Admiration* (detail), 2013, oil on linen, 40 x 50 inches

When Marc Dennis isn't busy being a professor of art, an independent Holocaust scholar, a filmmaker, a blogger for an NPR hosted affiliate, or one of the nation's leading entomophagists, he creates impressive hyper-realistic paintings.

Many of his highly detailed paintings depict some of the most iconic and provocative artworks in history, such as Courbet's *The Origin Of The World* (1866) and Caravaggio's *Love Conquers All* (1602). Not only does he repaint these masterpieces, he adds a twist by intertwining the observer of the painting. Look where he happens to place his subjects, it's pleasantly aggressive. Dennis has a special way of sharing the dichotomy of life as he plays with American culture.

"I set out to create paintings that are immediate and visceral; reflecting a paradox of dualities—the believable and non-believable, the real and the staged, and the serious and the comical, which I believe touch upon a genuine, urgent vision about the contemporary art world experience."

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