

About the Artists

L.J. Altvater

“The psychedelic experience is not a prerequisite for creativity, or a guarantee of its improvement. But like any memorable, emotionally-charged event in one’s life it is likely to influence creative work. The experience is important in regard to creativity and problem solving because it reveals new possibilities as well as old habits. For me this has inspired a progression from a rather gray, gloomy surrealism to a more vibrant, optically-stimulating type of imagery.” See www.sunecho.com.

Alex Grey

Alex Grey is best known for his depictions of the human body that “x-ray” the multiple layers of reality, revealing the complex integration of body, mind, and spirit. Grey’s unique series of 21 life-sized paintings, the *Sacred Mirrors*, present the physical and subtle anatomy of humanity in the context of cosmic, biological and technological evolution. A mid-career retrospective of Grey’s works was exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego in 1999. His paintings have been featured on a Beastie Boys album cover, in *Newsweek* magazine, on the Discovery Channel, rave flyers and sheets of blotter acid, and have been exhibited throughout the world. His books include *Sacred Mirrors: The Visionary Art of Alex Grey*, his philosophical text, *The Mission of Art*, and his forthcoming *Transfigurations*. Sounds True released *The Visionary Artist*, an audiotape of Grey’s art, philosophy, and vision practices. See www.alexgrey.com.

Allyson Grey

“Intending to create spiritual art, I feel naturally attracted to abstraction and to a written sacred language. In 1975, I began writing automatically in an invented or transmitted language. I combine the elements of perfection, like the Jewel Net, with the secret language, and images of chaos. Chaos in my art is the entropy of the units of spectrally arranged squares using a system of “planned randomness,” allowing every spectral unit to fall apart in a variety of ways. The three elements used in my work, Chaos, Order and Secret Writing, are non-literal representations of the sacred.

“Born in 1952, I’ve been married to Alex Grey for 25 years. With BA and MA degrees in Fine Arts, I’ve had solo shows at Stux Gallery and O.K. Harris Gallery in NYC, among others. Commissions of permanent public works include a 24-foot mural at the First Bank of Lowell, Massachusetts and my paintings have been collected by corporations and individuals. I paint and collaborate with Alex and our adorable actress daughter, Zena Lotus, in Brooklyn, NY.” See www.motley-focus.com/~timber/allysonpaint.html.

Stevee Postman

Stevee Postman is a digital artist living in San Francisco. Working with the union of technology and the organic he creates neo-pagan, faerie inspired, visual transmissions. He is the creator of the *Cosmic Tribe Tarot*. His visionary work has appeared in numerous publications and galleries. See www.stevee.com.

Steven Rooke

Steven Rooke’s work is the result of repeated cycles of selective breeding, wherein he assigns aesthetic fitness scores to individual computer-generated images within a population, followed by fitness-proportionate reproduction by “sexual crossover” and mutation of the underlying software genes. Entheogenic states provided him with much of the inspiration for designing the system, and inevitably informed his process of aesthetic selection. “Each image comes into being fully formed, and its genome is one of an infinite number of mathematically related structures. I fantasize that this process is a means for realizing visions from Plato’s eternal mathematical realm, an aspect of the inner world.” See www.azstarnet.com/~srooke.

Donna Torres

“Research trips to South America have influenced my work and have been important sources of information. These extended visits have given me the opportunity to live with native peoples and gain insights into their traditions. Studying the remains of ancient shamanic cultures, and specifically those of the Atacama Desert in northern Chile, has been particularly important. The region’s dry conditions have preserved the cultural remains of one of the largest shamanic societies in history. The paraphernalia used to ingest psychoactive plants forms a substantial part of the archaeological record.

“My studies have also led me to investigate living cultures that practice shamanic traditions. I am currently completing work for the Master in Fine Arts degree in painting and drawing at Florida International University in Miami.” See www.stlawu.edu/gallery:http/dtorres.htm.

Robert Venosa

The Fantastic Realism art of Robert Venosa has been exhibited worldwide and is represented in the collections of major museums, rock stars and European aristocracy. He’s done conceptual design for the movies *Dune*, *Fire in the Sky*, and *Race for Atlantis*. His work is the subject of three books, *Manas Manna*, *Noospheres*, and *Illuminatus*, featuring text by Terence McKenna. His art is also featured on album covers, including those of Santana and Kitaro. With studios in both Boulder and Cadaqués, Spain (where he spent time with neighbor Salvador Dali), Venosa gives workshops at such institutes as Esalen in Big Sur, Naropa in Boulder, Skyros Institute in Greece, and Tobago in the Caribbean. See www.venosa.com.

WHILE researching what has been published in the area of psychedelic creativity and visionary art, we quickly realized that we had opened a can of worms. There was much more to read and view than we could possibly hope to absorb in a short time, or cover even in a cursory manner. The topic is vast, and the more one looks, the deeper it becomes. As a starting point for those who desire to investigate further, we have provided below just a few of the many resources that we came across while working on this issue.

PRINT

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VIDEO

The Art of Tripping, a 1993 documentary on the influence of drugs on writers and artists, produced by the Jon Blair Film Company for the British Channel Four.

WEB

Albert Hofmann Foundation

<http://www.hofmann.org>

Their online museum has examples of the influence of psychedelics on art. Their "Science" section has the full text of several papers related to creativity and psychedelics.

Art Visionary Magazine

<http://members.tripod.com/artvisionary>

A relatively new Australian print magazine that features work by visionary, fantastic, and surreal artists.

The Electric Art Gallery

<http://www.egallery.com/homepage.html>

Their "Amazon Project" features work from the ayahuasca-inspired artist Pablo Cesar Amaringo, as well as other artists from his Usko-Ayar School.

Electrum Magicum

<http://www.levity.com/dimitri/index.htm>

The psychedelic art of Dimitri Novus.

Ernst Fuchs

<http://www.arsfantastica.at>

Fuchs is considered by many artists to be the "father" of visionary/psychedelic art.

Fantastic Art

<http://members.tripod.com/~fantasticart/index.html>

An amazing collection of visionary art. While clearly not all, nor perhaps even most, of these artists used psychedelics, there are numerous contributions by artists who have either publicly or privately acknowledged the positive effect that drugs have had on their work.

Galleria Sublimatio

<http://www.sublimatrix.com>

The visionary art of A. Andrew Gonzalez. Aside from an impressive collection of his own images, Gonzalez has a *very* useful links page.

H. R. Giger

<http://www.giger.com>

The dark, compelling visions of H.R. Giger, perhaps most well-known for his work on the movie *Alien*.

The HAVE YOU SEEN GOD Mandala Collection

<http://www.haveyouseengod.com/GALLERY.htm>

Contains paintings by fantastic visionary artists including Bill Martin, Mati Klarwein, Alex Grey, Cliff McReynolds, Tim Slowinski, Nick Hyde, Phil Jacobson, and many more.

Martina Hoffmann

<http://www.martinahoffman.com>

The beautiful visionary art of Martina Hoffmann.

MKZDK 2000

<http://www.mkzdk.org>

Various subtle, psychedelic visions. Think M.C. Escher dabbling with fractals and drugs.

Sacred Light Studio

<http://sacredlight.to>

The visionary art of Mark Henson.

The Stairwell Gallery Studio

<http://www.art.freewire.co.uk/stairwell>

Resident artist Cindy Mills.

Starroot Homepage

<http://arts.bev.net/NRAC/visart/starroot/thumbnails.html>

Images of Starroot's original artwork.

