

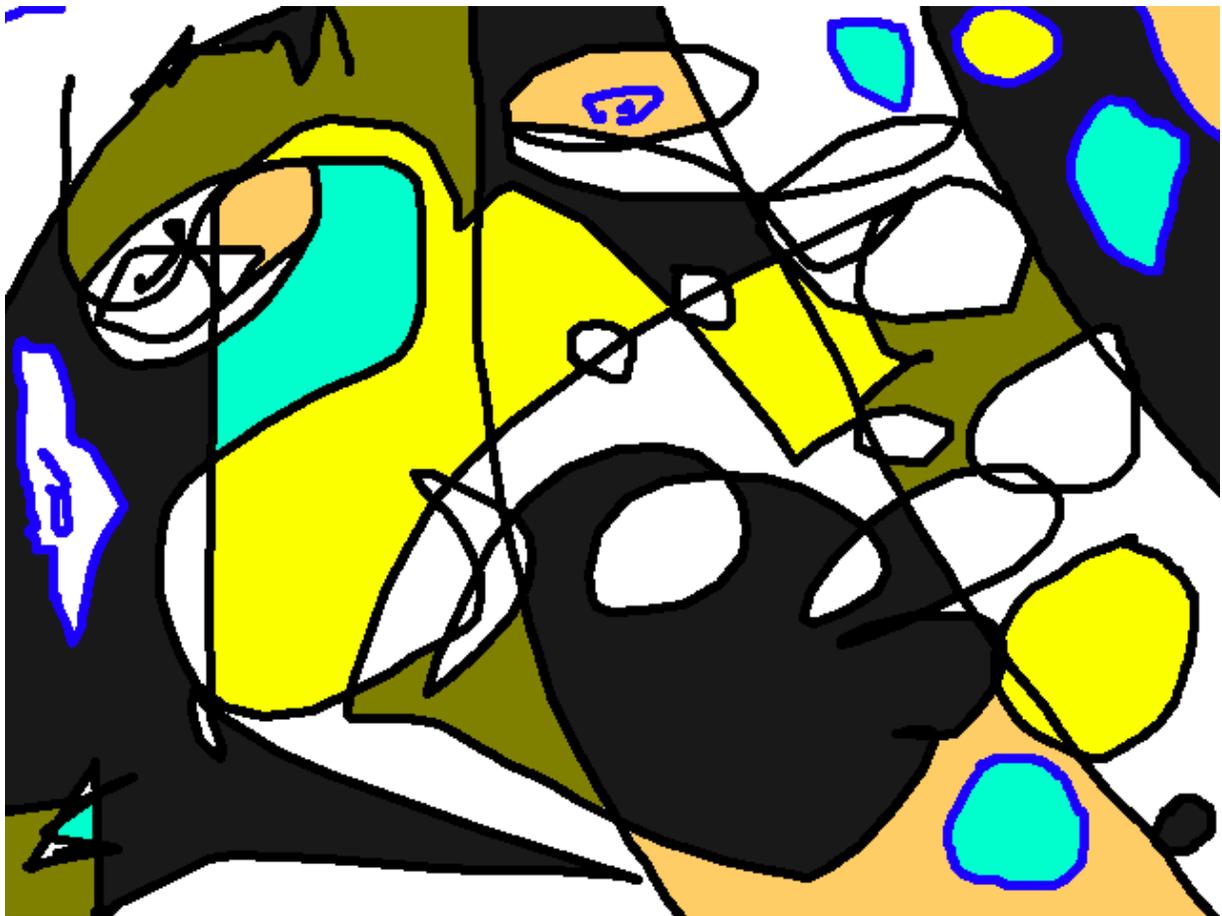
The USC Institute for Genetic Medicine Art Gallery

Presents:

Free Will: Positive Moment

By

Mike Becker



FACEMAN

48" x 36"

digital lithograph

Mike Becker

The USC Institute for Genetic Medicine Art Gallery
2250 Alcazar Street, 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90033

<http://www.usc.edu/igm>

November 15, 2015 – Feb 28, 2016

THE USC IGM ART GALLERY

An art-framed forum for open-minded, deliberative discussion

Dr. Elizabeth Fini, PhD
Director USC IGM

12 September 2015

Lynn Crandall, MA
IGM Art Gallery Director

Dear Friends,

Advisory Council

YO Pomiro
Sports Committee Chair

Thank you for your interest in **Free Will: Positive Moment (FWPM)**. We've chosen the rich complexities of geopolitical realities and their socio-psychological impact as subjects of a nine month study and focus for events considering art, science and interpersonal communications in their broadest senses. The exhibit and associated events probe how knowledge of structural laws of nature, the scientific process and stewardship of them can aid us in social decision making to ensure sustainable natural and institutional systems.

Blair Franks, President
USC Head and Neck
Cancer Survivors Group

The tensions between the individual and geopolitical forces constitute artist Mike Becker's inspiring, aesthetic presentations of how a harmonic balance of these tensions is within our grasp. The exhibition is a tool to open discussion on navigating today's profoundly changing world. To confront the daunting task of building new frameworks for conscious evolution, mindful stewardship, a collective vision, and a road map into the deep future are required. This process begins with self organized probability based choice making.

Robert Donin, MPA
Robert Donin Insurance

As we at the IGM Art Gallery, our colleagues in other USC departments and leaders in the surrounding community embark on identifying the challenges associated with this fast paced, monumental change and seek solutions, the images and text in this exhibit provide intuitive information on the spirit of creation and the fortitude to deal not only with specific challenges, but with complex challenge that requires multi-tasking, mindful collaboration and caregiving at every step.

Richard Fukuhara,
Fine Artist/Photo Journalist

To do this collectively, we need a sound grasp of where we were and where we are as individuals, biological families, institutions, communities and ultimately the global family. Honoring the past, confronting what's real, and using existing resources equip us to imagine and invent a bright future for coming generations. Mike's art book and discussions on it can pass this legacy to viewers so they may make better and pass the legacy on to others.

Maryam Gueramian
Young Professionals Committee

George Szabo
Szabo Productions
Chair, Documentary Committee

Designed to travel beyond the IGM AG, this exhibition presents the artist's career-long explorations of the processes of human behavior as affected by intra-and inter-personal communication. The exhibition, open to the public November 7, 2015 – February 26, 2016 at the Institute for Genetic Medicine Art Gallery, is available to travel to corporate and nonprofit spaces after February 26, 2016.

Steven Gallegos
Community Health Advocate

Gilda Moshir
Co-Founder, Our Parenting Place

This tool kit outlines the exhibition concepts and benefits; artist information and the gallery's education and community outreach programs in collaboration with city wide organizations. We hope the kit provides a clear picture of the scope and potential for mutually beneficial projects that local and global citizen diplomacy is fostered through open-minded discussion and resource sharing inspired by the **FWPM** exhibition and programs.

Gaston Mantero
Performance Art Committee

**Institute for Genetic
Medicine, USC Keck
School of Medicine**
2250 Alcazar Street
CSC 240
Los Angeles, CA 90033

Your help is needed to continue our education and cultural programs and important art exhibits free to the public, students and university personnel who benefit from them. Direct questions or requests for more information to Lynn Crandall, lynn.crandall@gmail.com or 213-705-7489.

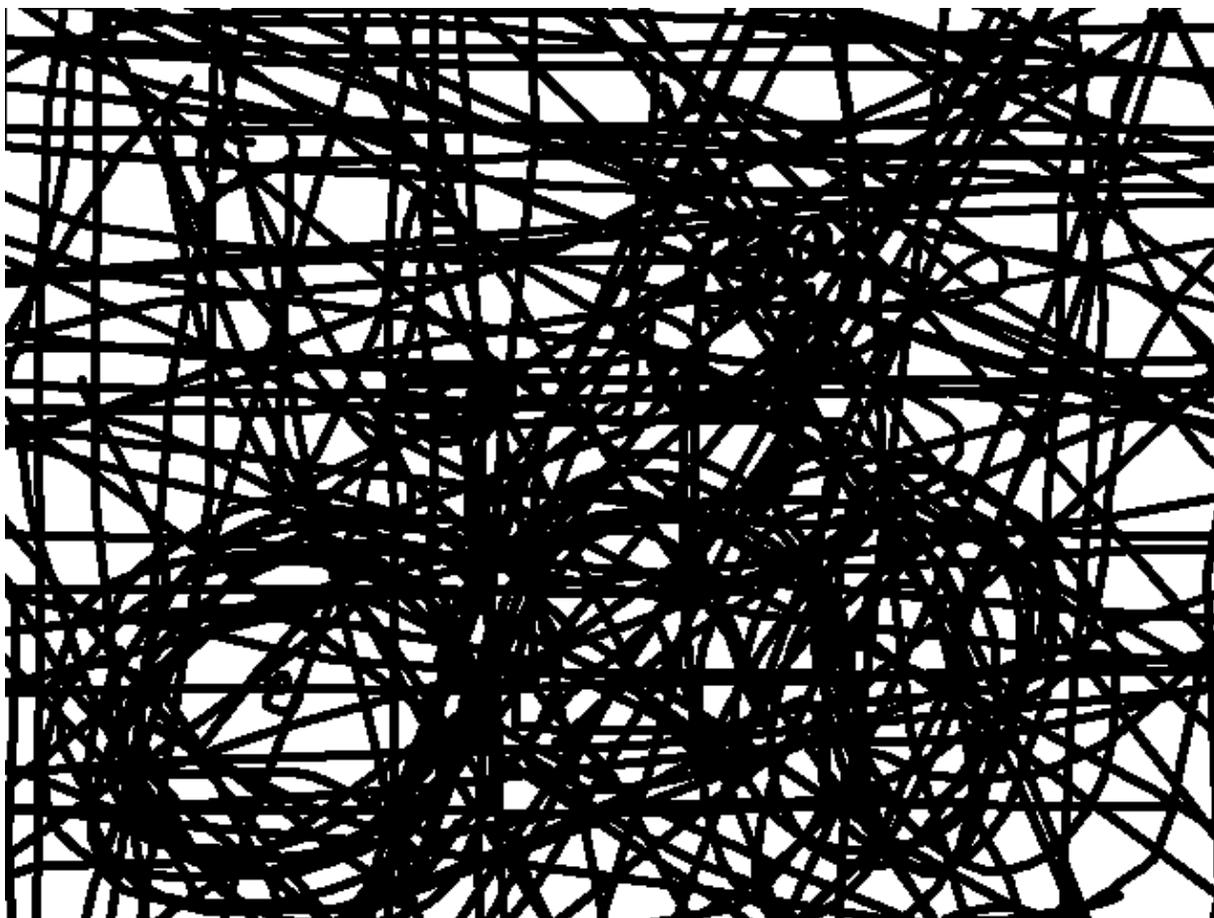
Contact:
Lynn.crandall@gmail.com
(213) 207-7489



Lynn Crandall, Director
USC IGM Art Gallery

cc: Elizabeth Fini, PhD, Director
Director, Keck School of Medicine, Institute for Genetic Medicine

The mission of the Institute for Genetic Medicine Art Gallery is to serve as an art-framed forum for open-minded discussion on complex social issues that interface with the creative process of empirical findings in genetic research, health and social systems



BICYCLE

48" x 36"

digital lithograph

Mike Becker

The Audience: The audience comprises seven key consumer bases

1. The University of Southern California
2. The USC Institute for Genetic Medicine's partners and affiliations
3. Local and international artists
4. Leaders from the vital local and Greater Los Angeles communities and beyond
5. Leaders working on global exchanges such as Sister Cities International Emergency USA, Americans for Informed Democracy and the Audiences in communities to which the exhibition may travel
6. Collaboration with public, private, non profit, faith based, academic and media leaders working with constituents within there area

Media Presence:

Print Coverage Possibilities

1. The Los Angeles Times
2. USC newspapers and others
3. On-Line Coverage – artAngels.org, IGM Art Gallery Facebook posting and other partners' websites
4. USC websites
5. Sponsors' credits, logos, and links on the home page of ***Free Will: Positive Moment***
6. Exhibition site and additional credit on relevant program pages and handouts
7. Many cultural list serves – National and Local Arts and Culture sites
8. E-invites to exhibition receptions and event



SUCCESS STAIRS

48" x 36"

digital lithograph

Mike Becker

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The exhibits at the USC Institute for Genetic Medicine Art Gallery (IGMAG) investigate change. They are designed to inspire discussion, raise questions and probe how we can collaborate in understanding and managing change to ensure a bright future for the next generation. Education and cultural events explore the costs and benefits to mankind in the context of longevity of the physical body AND the quality of life and culture of the global family. The IGM's research scientists develop the theory and practice of medicine. In association with them, the curators and artists of the IGM Art Gallery explore the application of the scientific method to other systemic disciplines. Our exhibits explore the why and how of process and the benefits to mankind of the increased awareness they generate.

The IGM Art Gallery seeks projects that manifest aesthetically valuable representation as well as works of contemporary artists that radically transform or abandon conventional modes of representation. We seek projects with trans-historical and trans-cultural significance. By linking the close study of detail and the iteration process of reciprocal relations through our art exhibits, we work to illuminate a language and thought process that cuts across boundaries. We seek to facilitate visions and actions for cross-organizational, cross department inclusive, noncompetitive, transparent accountable collaboration.

Mike Becker's depictions of images and feelings that arise from his subconscious as well as his life experience inspire dialogue that suggests ways to break out of the box, take a number of portals to get at the essence of the matter and keep an open-minded trust and experimental attitude in these times of uncertainty. There are no short cuts to creating the means to one's inner peace. Inner peace begins with building a relationship with self, then with peers, and with them, one's relationship with natural and geopolitical forces. Every generation must take up its responsibility to innovate and refresh the concept of stewardship to self, others and the planet. Nature is always moving, changing. In order to keep pace with natural and geopolitical shifts that have taken place since the generation before played out its responsibilities, there must be cross generational dialog and substantive relationship building. Becker's **Free Will/Positive Moment** text and images provide inspiration and models for individuals and organizations at whatever level of the socio-economic they find they're positioned. There are always more opportunities to move onward and upward.

Free Will/Positive Moment Themes

Work Ethic, Innovation, Self-Organized Choice Making

Not much is known about the unconscious mind but it is believed to contain the biological instincts that we act on every day, such as sex and aggression. A person is completely unaware of what happens within the unconscious mind. Psychoanalyst, Sigmund Freud, made the concept of the unconscious popular and based most of his psychoanalytical theories on the concept. The subconscious mind, according to Freud, rests right below the conscious mind and has easy access to the thoughts and feelings in this state, as opposed to unconscious mind, access to which is impossible. Freud believed we project our unconscious emotions onto others and thus can gain understanding, if we are mindful. Work Ethic is value-based hard work and character. FWPM examines ethical principles and moral and ethical problem-solving in business and social conduct in individuals and their organizations. Interaction of profit-maximizing behavior with non-economic community concerns is the balance Becker strives to elucidate in this exhibition.

Intrapersonal

Intrapersonal communication is language use or thought internal to the communicator. It includes many mental activities such as thinking, calculating, planning, talking to one's self, internal monologue, day-dreaming.

Intrapersonal communication affects how we perceive our self: either in a negative or positive way. Joseph Jordania hypothesized that intrapersonal communication was created to avoid silence because as social creatures we feel uncomfortable with extended periods of silence. Intrapersonal unconscious communication is when dreams, previous experiences, or hypnosis affect a person's choices or experiences unconsciously.

Interpersonal

Interpersonal communication includes message sending and message reception between two or more individuals. This can include all aspects of communication such as listening, persuading, asserting, nonverbal communication, and more. Interpersonal unconscious communication includes unintentional facial expressions, body language, tone of voice, and speech patterns while interacting with another individual to interpret to gain knowledge of self and other. Studies suggest that when presented with an emotional facial expression, participants instinctively react with movement in facial muscles that are mimicking the original facial expression.

There are six different reasons for nonverbal communication:

- Complementing: adding extra information to verbal communication
- Contradicting: our nonverbal messages contradict our verbal messages
- Repeating: emphasize or clarify the verbal message
- Regulating: coordinate the verbal dialogue between people
- Substituting: when a nonverbal message is used in place of a verbal message
- Accenting: emphasizing a particular point in a verbal message.

The **Subconscious** images explore the creative process, the Life Force, natural and social forces impact on the individual's experience and comprehension and represent them as active on all levels of being at all times. Because our left or right brain is dominant in the instant, because we haven't learned how to exercise our mental process into being holistic, the totality can't yet be grasped by either scientific reason alone or intuition alone the two must become an intricately balanced combination only possible in open-minded dialog with all points of view represented.

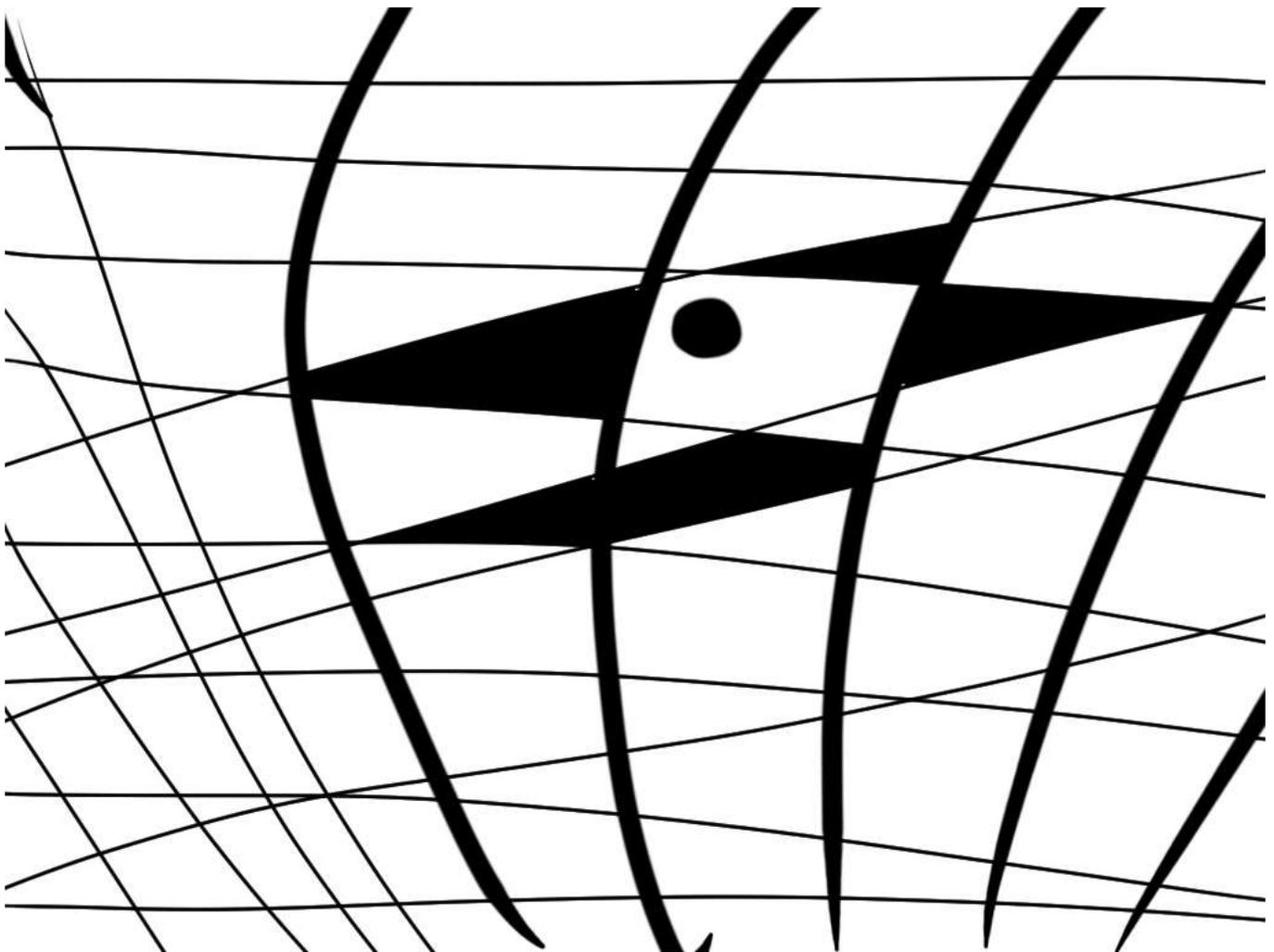
The laws of nature make room for choice and action within ourselves and for the forces outside ourselves – politics and social order; natural phenomena such as earthquakes, hurricanes and global warming. The constant interplay between order and disorder, between random possibility and patterned structure is constant, not only within our own right/left brain dynamic, but outside ourselves with the other, the group and nature itself. The universal conflicts - man against man, man against himself, man against society, man against nature, are classic, but deeper understanding and more mindful discipline is required if we are to advance to higher levels of stewardship of self, others and the planet.

Mike Becker's creative explorations into his own psyche as affected by the vagaries of daily life and personal interactions, in the context of an open-minded forum with carefully monitored, accepted rules of discussion, provide

us tools to get at a deeper level of interplay. A discussion focused on any one of these images opens discussion into the fact that contradictory explanations of reality, feelings and perceptions can be simultaneously true.

The IGM AG Advisory Council invites you to engage with the art and other viewers to name and share your reactions to this work. Consider the patterns and routines, what is cyclical, what linear, what causes joy and comfort, what causes fear and conflict and consider how you react to Mike's images and your conversations with others about your reactions to the work. Be ready to create new ways to share ideas and resources with your neighbors and to forge innovative supportive links as we go with the flow of global exchange to find our own personal links and positions within the global family.

-Lynn Crandall, Director
USC IGM Art Gallery



BW0823

48" x 36"

digital lithograph

Mike Becker

ARTIST'S BIOGRAPY



With a B.S. in Kinesiological Science from The University of Maryland, College Park, Mike Becker became an Ordinary Seaman with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. He worked in Southeast Alaska and the Prince William Sound, assigned to the NOAA Ship Rainier, a nautical surveying vessel. Influenced by nature, seeing its patterns and process, he began to think and draw to better understand balance and human kind's influence upon natural balance. He earned a Master SCUBA diver certification and Marine Certified firefighting accreditation and assisted in nautical map making while also tinkering on sonar tools.

Enrolled in continuing education courses in science and math, he discovered Geology and was absorbed its creation story. He continued to paint while being informed, engaged and empowered through exploring Nature and watching fighter jets and Ospreys overhead.

He earned an FAA single engine private pilot license and applied for a coveted flight slot with the USAF/ANG and USAF. Offered a slot with the USAF/ANG. Mike earned his Officer commission in Knoxville, Tennessee at the time of 9/11. He then received orders for JSUPT flight school in Enid, Oklahoma. He lost interest in flying jets, but the urge to paint continued. He received his Honorable Discharge fourteen years later in September, 2014.

Settling in LA, he painted, wrote screenplays, working at and learning a compendium of movie production jobs to pay bills. He began to create art tools and a movement for working canvas without traditional paintbrushes, a method he still employs on his acrylic artworks. He met and married his wife and returned to his love of environment and memories of Alaska to sell photovoltaic (solar) systems to homeowners and commercial businesses, and, of course, continued to paint. His step niece, nearly killed in a terrorist bombing in Kampala, Uganda in 2008, moved Mike to continue his service of country and protect those unable to protect self. This time, choosing pen and paint as his weapons, he incubated the idea of *Free Will: Positive Moment*.

Working in the software industry, he travelled the globe selling nautical mapping software to state controlled oil companies and governments. He and his wife produced, at this time, two wonderful children, now 8 and 5, and he began to create art on an iPad with a \$2.99 ArtStudio digital app and his index finger.

He created abstract art with depth and texture, manipulating a two dimensional medium to present as 3D. Time, formerly Mike's greatest enemy, became his greatest asset. Daily reminders of human injustice bombarded him from global media. Personal choice seemed to diminish; the potential for evil to emerge from inexhaustible availability of content. This concerned him. Anderson Cooper reported- Newton Connecticut school children's brain matter and blood ran thick over glossy waxed laminate. Anderson Cooper reported-Colorado Theatre shootings destroyed a great bastion of Americana escapism and imagination. Anderson Cooper reported. Boston Marathon terrorism kept the world glued to Twitter and the weak grew stronger. Anderson Cooper reported; Mike painted with his finger on the IPAD, and painted, and painted.

Concerned with public and private leaders making money for the sake of making money, Mike set to work to write a book to redirect what he considered to be this dangerous direction. He wanted to provide a model for a more equitable existence and path for all to achieve economic self-sufficiency and social justice. *Free Will Positive Moment* gained momentum; Mike stretched harder and self-published his book and now invites you to explore and journey together toward our collective truths that, together, with in rhythm, balance and harmony, we may take the next step for mankind toward establishing global peace.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT



I have provided a singular message in the heart of my book, which I'll share with you as "Birth is Pure". It is from this fundamental organismic building block the world's peoples have an opportunity to review, rekindle, renew, and refresh their behaviors. It is from this culturally specific singular message of **"Birth is Pure"**, we each may remember the love we have experienced and require for harmonious survival. It is from within this commonality, "Birth is Pure", one reader may become a nation of readers. A nation of readers may similarly align in positive journey with a global community of readers so that one child, one man and one woman's turn for a better choice may evolve. **Within this work Free Will Positive Moment, I aim to avert tragedy prior to conception and well in advance of recruitment to an otherwise unsavory lifestyle choice.**

[CLICK](#) to link to Mike's on-line Gallery



+ - FACE 1 36"x 48" digital lithograph Mike Becker

EVENTS PLANNED THUS FAR

1. Opening Reception, IGM AG Sunday, November 15, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
2. Available
3. Available
4. Available
5. Etc.

