

START HERE. Walk Counterclockwise.

John Greiner-Ferris is a multi-disciplinary artist who borrows from and combines multiple disciplines to create artwork. For **november2024**, he utilizes mixed media to fluidly address the perils inflicted on individuals by modern society. The intentionally lo-tech nature of my artwork is a response to what I believe is too much emphasis in the art world on commercialism and salability at the expense of originality and truth. My hope/wish is that it challenges you to question your notion of what art is.

My artwork has always been about, and will continue to be about, the individual's struggle to maintain dignity in the face societal pressures—both real and imagined.

About the series

I began this series in January 2024 and continued working on it right up to October 2024. It is my response to some of the events and issues that are prevalent in the United States, such as economic disparity, divisiveness, school/mass shootings, and our species' ability to destroy itself. As the November presidential election approached and without knowing its outcome, the final two pieces are my attempt to offer up kindness and encouragement.

My approach

When you were a child did you ever build a clubhouse using whatever material you could get your hands on? Not worrying if things matched or lined up exactly? It's in that spirit that I approached these mixed media pieces.

Mark Rothko encouraged people to view his monumental pieces from 18 inches away or so in order to experience the artwork on its own terms. I encourage you to get close to these pieces, within inches. Get nose to nose with them.

While making these pieces, I spent a lot of time on the floor, resting, looking at them from below, and while they now are hung at eye level in this gallery setting (proving once and for all that they actually are pieces of art!) I would encourage you to try viewing them from all angles. Squat down. Look up at them. View them from the side. Don't worry; you won't look silly, or at least no sillier than I look displaying them.

Why I do what I do

The goal of this exhibition is to have a conversation with you, the viewer. Just as an actor breaks the fourth wall on a stage and talks directly to the audience, I use text and a visual language to break the picture plane to speak directly to you. Just as I'm speaking to you right now. And you can hear me, can't you, through these written words? As you read these words you hear a sound, a voice, made by my words in your head. Hello!

I hope this gives you a better understanding of what you're about to see. But if it doesn't, just remember: All a work of art asks you to do is look at it.

You can learn more about me and my work at johngreinerferrstudio.com, and at substack.com where I write "*from the studio*" at johngreinerferrisstudio.substack.com.

This exhibition is lovingly dedicated to Susan Fearnley, without whom this exhibit would never have seen the light of day. Love you, honey.