

Juan Carlos Báez

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JUAN CARLOS BAEZ- BIOGRAPHY:

Juan Carlos Báez was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and lived here until the age of 13. At that point he moves to Chicago, where he continues his studies and then graduates a few years later from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His work has explored the theme of cultural identity in a foreign land through symbolism and surrealism. After having worked in Chicago as an artist, creative director and teacher, he returns to Puerto Rico, where he is working on various artistic projects while he reconnects with his roots.

Báez has exhibited his work in Chicago and other cities in the United States. He has also worked on murals in that city and in the Dominican Republic. Recently he has been working on projects with artists like Peter Gabriel, Jon Anderson of the band Yes, and local artist Pijuan, on illustration and comic book projects. He also illustrated the graphic novel Things To Come, by Walter Koenig, actor in the original Star Trek series.

His fine art work is enriched by his understanding of popular culture and a sensibility that is well connected to the world of comics and illustration, where he has worked before, not like Lichtenstein utilized it, but in a more referential and not so literal way while still being able to connect with and attract a varied public. He has taken his experiences in comics and commercial art and has applied the stylistically to the narrative and surrealist paintings he creates, which, through the method of appropriation and the cultural references found in those pieces, invites an audience who may not always visit galleries to an artistic and cultural dialogue, which one can say is one of the qualities of postmodernism, that of breaking walls. In that sense robots, spaceships, astronauts, flying garitas (watchtowers and mythical creatures become symbols of cultural isolation, separation and a search of the spiritual.

Báez's piece, The Journey, won 1st Place at the Arte Joven Latinoamericano contest that took place in Chicago in 1994. His painting Strong Tower represented Puerto Rico in the Passport To The World exhibit at the Chicago Children's Museum in Chicago.

ART RESUME (Selected Exhibits):

2015- *UMET, Diaspora- Solo show at the Library of the Universidad Metropolitana En Bayamon, PR.

*Puerto Rico Comic Con- Solo show in J.C. Baez Art booth (Solo Show).

2014- *Two Man Show, Ramírez Studio, Río Piedras, PR (with Gamaliel Ramírez)

*Galería Guatibiri, Jornada Posmoderna, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico. (Group Show with Gamaliel Ramírez).

*Home Studio Show, Chicago, IL (Solo Show).

2013- *Art Event at the Elbo Room Club, Chicago, IL (Group Show)

*Marriott Burr Ridge Hotel, live painting event, Burr Ridge, IL (Solo art event).

*Aloft Chicago Hotel, Chicago, IL (Group show).

*Chicago Comicon 2013 Show, exhibition of paintings at artist's booth, Rosemont, IL (Solo Works).

- 2012-** *Live painting show. Private event, Melrose Park, IL
 *Karitos Art Conference Exhibition, Wheaton, IL (Group Show).
- 2011-** *Borinquen Restaurant, Cicero, IL Location (Solo Show).
- 2010-** *Jon Anderson, S.Kelso, J.C. Baez: Haiti Benefit Exhibit, New Life Lincoln Park, Chicago, IL (Group Show).
 *IWEEV Art Exhibit, Chicago, IL, Casa Puertorriqueña (Group Show).
 *Borinquen Restaurant, Chicago, IL Location (Solo Show).
- 2009-** *Live Art Event: Celebrate Recovery, Chicago, IL (Group Show).
- 2008-** *Baezcrossartdesign Studio Exhibition, Chicago, IL (Group Show).
- 2007-** *New Life Art Auction, Melrose Park, IL (Group Show).
- 2006-** *Semeiotic, Andersonville Art Festival, Chicago, IL (Group Show).
 *Borinquen Restaurant, Chicago, IL (Solo Show).
- 2005-** *Semeiotic: PULSE, Andersonville Art Festival, Chicago, IL (Group Show).
 *Teddi Toys Inc. Office, Chicago, IL (Solo Show).
- 2004-** *Semeiotic, Andersonville Art Festival, Chicago, IL (Group Show).
 *Mitad Del Mundo Restaurant, Chicago, IL (Solo Show).
- 2003-** *Passport To The World Exhibit, Chicago Children's Museum, Chicago, IL, where I was chosen to represent Puerto Rico (Group Show).
 *Moody Institute, Chicago, IL. Institute (Group Show).
 *Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center, Around The Coyote Festival, Chicago, IL (Group Show).
- 2002-** *Semeiotic, First Free Church, Chicago, IL (Group Show).
 *Borders Bookstore Cafe, Clark & Diversey, Chicago, IL (Solo Show).
- 2001-** *Light From Darkness, Fred Burkhart Gallery, Chicago, IL (Solo Show).
 *Genesis Art Store, Chicago, IL (Solo Show).
 *Semeiotic, First Free Church, Chicago, IL (Group Show).
- 1999-** *Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center Chicago, IL (Group Show).
- 1996-** *Roberto Lopez Gallery, Wicker Park Erotica (Group Exhibit).
- 1995-** *Roberto Lopez Gallery, Chicago, IL (Group Exhibit).
- 1994-** *Arte Joven Latinoamericano (Juried Exhibition, 1st Prize Winner), El Ñandu Restaurant, Chicago, IL.
- 1993-** *Illinois Institute Of Technology Chicago, IL (Group Show).
 *El Ñandu Restaurant, Chicago, IL (Solo Show).
 *Harold Washington College, Chicago, IL (Group Show/Event).
- 1992-** *Northern Illinois University (Group Exhibit), DeKalb, IL (Solo Show).
- 1991-** *National-Louis University, Chicago IL (Solo Show).
 *Walkers Point Center For The Arts, Milwaukee, WI (Group Show).
 *The Unspoken Language of the Soul, NNWAC Gallery, Chgo., IL (Group Show).
 *Ofrendas, Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center, Chicago, IL (Group Show).
- 1990-** *School Of The Art Institute, A Part Of The Whole, Chicago, IL (Group Show).
- 1986-** *Museum Of Science and Industry, Chicago, IL (Group Show).

COMMERCIAL ART RESUME: SELECTED STORYBOARD AND ILLUSTRATION ASSIGNMENTS:

- 2016: ShowPony band album cover, Washington D.C.
Pijuan and The Baby Boomer Boys #1 Comic Book, Pijuan Productions, San Juan, P.R.
Moses Comic, Carlton Hargro Productions, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2015: Star Trek Renegades Comic Book. Sky Conway Productions, Los Angeles , California.
Illustrations for Spanish and Religion Textbooks by Ediciones SM Puerto Rico.
Monster.Us Children's Comic Book, for Art-In-Effect Inc., Florida
- 2014: Illustrations for Vivir Con Los Demas Social Studies books by Ediciones SM Puerto Rico.
Art for "When Toola Forgot Her Song", a children's book by Jon and Jane Anderson, San Luis Obispo, California.
Art for "Alvie and Hazel", a children's book by Gloria Ford, Louisiana, USA.
Shoe Factory Road Comic Book, based on the film in development of the same name, Los Angeles, California.
Art and writing for the new issue of "Las Aventuras del Profesor Koki".
Illustration for Lands and Legends, The Fantasy Illustration Library, by Michael Publishing, Chicago, IL.
- 2013: Project Development and illustration for Peter Gabriel graphic novel "The Lamb Lies Down On Broadway" based on his story and album by Genesis, Bath, United Kingdom.
Pencils for Makossa Comic Book by Carlton Hargro, part of the Anthology of African American Heroes, Atlanta, Georgia.
Mural at New Melrose Park Community Church, Melrose Park, IL.
- 2012: Storyboards for "Troll: The Tale of a Tail" animated film. Great River Productions. Director, David Dulac.
Illustrated companion comic book and CD cover for Jon Anderson's Violin Stories CD.
- 2011: Art/covers, character design for "Things To Come" comic book mini-series and graphic novel written by Walter Koenig (Star Trek) and published by Bluewater Comics.
Storyboards, character/concept design and cover art for "Violin Stories" film project and CD by Jon Anderson.
- 2010: Storyboards for commercials by FMM Advertising Agency, Chicago.
Art and concept /character designs for "Fiefdom of Angels" graphic novel, written by Kevin Max.
- 2009: Storyboards for Star Trek Phase II episode "Kitumba", directed by Vic Mignogna and written by John Meredyth Lucas and Patty Wright. Retro Film Studios.
- 2008: Illustrator & character designer for KSCE TV commercial in El Paso, Texas.
Storyboards for "Marla" film, directed by Casey Lock.
- 2007: Storyboards for "CD One Day Cleaners" and "Arlington Racetrack" commercials, for Sunrise Advertising, Chicago.
Storyboards for "The Spray" film, directed by Casey Lock, Chicago, IL.
Storyboards for independent film, Tangentia Boulevard.
- 2006: Storyboards for "There Are No Americans in America" web commercial by Whoareyou.LLC, Chicago, IL.
- 2002: Concept/character design, writing and art for the Team GK educational comic book series published by Teddi Toys and Comics, Chicago, IL.

AWARDS:

1986: Chicago Vehicle City Sticker Contest winner
1987: School of the Art Institute First Year Merit Award winner
1994: Young Latin American Art Contest 1st place winner
2015: Best Digital Comic New Media Film Festival, Los Angeles

SELECTED MURALS:

Cocobana Rastaurant, Santurce Puerto Rico, 2015.
New Life Melrose Community Church, Melrose Park, IL, 2013.
El Jibarito Club, Chicago, IL, 2005
Nuestra America Charter School, Chicago, IL, 2000.
Centro Integral Materno Infantil Vida, Dominican Republic, 2000.
Central Spanish Baptist Church, Chicago, IL, 1997.
Wells High School, Driver Education Center, Chicago, IL, 1986.