

I like to make paintings that are about something more than the formal concerns that painters have to deal with: color, composition, modeling, lighting, etc. These things are important only as a vehicle to deliver messages.

The paintings, on one level, are illustrations of ideas that strike me as amusing, mysterious, senseless, or profound -- or all of the above. I want to give the viewer something to think about as well as something to look at. I want to serve up a meal, not just offer a glass of water. The "meal" may not always be to the viewer's liking, but I hope it won't just be innocuous.

I've always believed that making art has to do with taking chances: nothing ventured, nothing gained. If I make paintings about specific ideas, I can make something stupid or obvious as well as something interesting. I'd rather take that chance than make anything merely pleasing or decorative.

Here are a few ideas:

*Why Am I Here?* Who asks this question? People do. There are several question marks in the painting for you to find.

*Good Luck - Game Over* This is what electronic slot machines say at the beginning and end of play. These paintings are a still life about my working career from high school graduation to my retirement from teaching art.

*"BOB Knows, But He Ain't Tellin'," BOB Don't Ever Change,* and *BOB and Teenage Connie in Tibet* These paintings are all inspired by *The Book of the Subgenius*, a nonreligion cult that parodies all religions. It's impossible to explain briefly. If you're curious, get a copy and read it. One of the ideas of the "religion" is that you can make up your own mythology about BOB and it is as true as the myths.

*Father Knows Best* The Gulf War.

*Everything in One Place* Two ideas are important. Men can't stop killing each other. Cemeteries are where everything is forgotten, not remembered, and everything ends up there.

*The Temptation of Saint Anthony* I included all subject matter you're not supposed to make art about if you want to get a National Endowment for the Arts grant.