

# MICHAEL HANNON

Caligraphy, poetry, painting

Born 1963

Michael Hannon is a local artist to San Marcos in Texas State. His innovative process of art is influenced by Chinese calligraphy, poetry and painting. In 2006 Hannon, hand-sewed offset, half-tone images of his work creating the book "Album Leaves". Many of his pieces include Celtic Design. These are truly masterpieces.



## Artist Statement:

As someone on the milder end of the Autistic spectrum, born in 1963, I was not diagnosed until middle age. This despite the fact that I had self-diagnosed myself as having something that to me appeared to be a mild form of autism, in the 5th grade. But at this time conventional wisdom (in this country) was that only the most severe forms of autism, were forms of autism. I still do not fully understand how this came about since Dr. Kanner's first paper to establish the term in English, referred to people in my area of the spectrum. Though he and others working in the U.S. emphasized the more extreme cases over time, it still seems a little perverse that the term was for decades not applied to the cases it was originally coined for. Yet despite this I did receive rather good special education in language / communication skills. This did allow me to eventually learn to read (about the 6th to 7th grade); and eventually to write (more or less in high school and college), though my spelling is still poor, and writing fairly arduous. A side note here, while spell check can be a help, with my often clueless spelling it can also become an exercise in frustration as well- so no, I do not consider it a godsend.

As an artist I have a wide range of interests, including visual art and design, as well as poetry. As to visual arts, I enjoy using a wide range of techniques, from drawing in pencil, ink, or scratchboard, to painting in watercolor, gouache, acrylics, and oils. I also like to draw on a wide range of historical styles and techniques. Working in forms from Asian brush painting, and medieval manuscript illumination, to more traditional western drawing and painting techniques.

I am largely self taught, but my father is a theatrical set designer, and I have a two year degree in Visual Communication Design; as well as a B.A. in Anthropology. My interest in anthropology has certainly inclined me to look at, and draw on art styles and techniques from throughout the world. One of the ironies of being an artist for me (and I believe for many others) is that I do art largely because I am not good at social / linguistic communication, yet in our society visual artists are largely judged on personal and written presentations, that really have little or nothing to do with their skills as artists.

Now I should explain that while it is the case that I am a poet as well as a visual artist (often including original poetry in my works), you may be lead to believe that I have some special facility with language. This is far from the truth. I do have an abiding love of language, despite the difficulty that I have in putting my thoughts into words. I further believe that my Asperger's does predispose me towards structured verse in my poetry.

To view Hannon 2019 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wk8SNej1fm4>