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Artist's Statement for 'Enter The Dragon' - DMC©2019

The creation of 'Enter the Dragon' began the night before I ever touched my tools. I had just finished watching Bruce Lee's 1973 classic *Enter the Dragon*, a film that brought back waves of childhood nostalgia. I remembered the hype of kung fu movies in the early '70s, the 1974 song 'everybody was kung fu fighting' by Artist: Carl Douglas played over and over in my head, and the schoolyard scenes of boys pretending to be Bruce Lee, complete with dramatic stances and clawed hands.

The next morning, I set out to create an encaustic piece on a prepared hardboard. I melted the colours I had chosen, ready to bring my vision to life. Only, I was met with a result that looked nothing like what I had imagined. I turned the board again and again, considering whether to press on or melt the entire surface away. Then, as I rotated the piece under my UV work light, a single glint of gold flashed back at me. In that moment, I saw it: a burst of playful, over-acted energy, and in my mind's eye, Bruce Lee himself.

Inspired, I grabbed my hot metal pen and began free-handing the outline of a dragon in a kung fu stance, its hands-as-claws a nod to those childhood imitations. I filled the silhouette with gold oil enamel, slowly raising the image above the encaustic background. A flickering red enamel tongue followed, giving the dragon its fiery spirit. Over the next several days, I added more layers, letting each dry before lightly heating and polishing the surface.

Once the dragon was complete, I placed the hardboard into a solid pinewood box frame. I mixed and poured a two-part crystal-clear UVA/UVB resin, sealing the artwork inside its wooden frame and giving it a glassy finish. After a gentle blast with the heat gun, I let it cure in the tent for six days before adding heavy-duty hanging wire.

When I finally stepped back, I couldn't help but laugh. The dragon, shimmering in gold against its blue background, felt alive, like Bruce Lee had leapt into the form of a mythical creature. It became a tribute to the joy, imagination, and excitement of those early martial arts film experiences.

'Enter the Dragon' has hung in my hallway ever since, a reminder that inspiration often appears in unexpected flashes. I now offer it for sale, hopeful that someone else will see in it the same spark of nostalgia and delight that first caught my eye.

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Enter the Dragon'



Encaustic Artwork: 20cm x 25.5cm hardwood panel
Frame: 24cm x 29cm x 2.5cm pinewood box frame - wall hang
Sealed under UVA/UVB crystal glass resin (NOT ART RESIN)
Weight: 1 kg

When Bruce Lee Met My Arts and Crafts: A Kung Fu Dragon Tale

The night was calm, the lounge aglow,
Bruce Lee was flying, all fists and show.
A 1973 delight, oh what a sight,
I laughed at the kicks, the dubbed-up fight.

Carl Douglas crooned in my buzzing head,
“Everybody was kung fu fighting,” he said.
I saw schoolyards with claw-hand crews,
Boys in flares, their best kung fu moves.

Next dawn I rose with a grand design,
A board prepared, all colours aligned.
I melted the wax, a vision in mind,
But what I saw... was not that kind.

I turned it left, I turned it right,
I pondered the heat, the melting plight.
Then gold did glimmer, a cheeky spark,
Bruce Lee in dragon form leapt from the dark!

With hot pen poised, I drew with glee,
Dragon claws posing, just like Lee.
A tongue of red, enamelled fire,
A golden beast for all to admire.

I framed it neat in pinewood fair,
Resin poured with utmost care.
A heat gun kiss, six days of wait,
Till dragon stood proud, in shimmering state.

Now in my hall it grins with flair,
A kung fu dragon with Bruce Lee's stare.
A laugh, a wink, nostalgia's song,
My ode to a film where we all belong. DMC©2019

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