

Gordon K. Sherman

Artist Statement

Gordon K. Sherman is difficult to pigeon hole concerning technique, mediums, and imagery. His work has been described by some as “flying by the seat of your pants.” (He has always believed that was what honest mark making is.) Gordon has never been content to simply record with the mediums he chooses but rather explores and exposes his intent with a particular medium. Gordon grew up drawing and making “stuff” and would often fall asleep doing so and forced to bed. There has never been a day since his childhood that he has not thought about, acted upon, or executed some type of artistic deliberation or mark. That has brought him to where he is now Professor of Art at Fort Hays State University, where he instructs printmaking and drawing. He has exhibited in over 300 competitive, invitational, group and one person exhibitions over the last thirty years. He has presented and/or participated in conferences, workshops, lectures and demonstrations in every geographic area of the United States. He has been involved with commissions both nationally and internationally including Time Magazine, Absolut Vodka, USA Today plus private portraiture and institutional murals. His work is represented in over fifty public and private collections.

Mysterious and appointed iconography has always been the foundation of his visual development. His imagery contains a strong sense of place that demands close attention. Manipulation of this “vocabulary” reveals his concern for human relationship to the environment and potential harmful vestiges of culture’s growth and decay. He has never consciously pursued an obvious dialogue with an audience, but rather engages their curiosity to establish rapport with his work in relationship to one’s experience and history. With that inquiry, the viewer hopefully develops some connection to his artistic concerns, intentions and abilities.