

Laura Anderson
Event Write-Up

Marc Rubin

Date of Event: March 18, 2008

So this has to be the most random artist encounter ever. I ran it past Heba and she said it counted for this. In some ways, this whole deal was a gallery visit, in some ways it was an artist lecture. It'll make sense in a minute.

For this recent spring break, three friends of mine and I went to Chicago just for kicks. We were walking around boystown just checking out Chicago life. Then we got lost. Meh. Like the dorky tourists we were, we whipped out a map, plastered it against the side of a building while looks of deep concentration and confusion came over us. It was then that this dirty-looking old guy smoking a cigarette came up and asked us if we needed directions. Duh. So this guy helped us find out where we were and where we were trying to go. He's like "Well, looks like you guys will pass my gallery, because that's the way I'm going." So we walk together, sort of awkwardly, and take a peek in to this gallery of his. Sweet, it's a neat looking place.

So we head in, and this place looks sweet. It turns out this guy was Marc Rubin: an artist who is based out of Chicago, and is kind of a big deal. He was really chatty, so we all got to talking, while hanging out amidst his art. He even made us coffee.

Marc Rubin is primarily a painter, but he did have some drawings in his gallery (which is why I can justify using him for this write-up.) He calls his art "synchronism" which in his words is "intentional art which synthesizes two or more genres of modernism and/or genres from any previous age into harmonious balance." (according to web site). It was pretty cool; an example would be like, pop cubism.

He showed us some stuff he was working on, and most of his painting start of as pretty strong drawings. So good that they could be shown in galleries as well, I think. Since Rubin's big thing is color, he uses mostly colored pencil in his drawings, and it creates a unique layering effect, unlike paint that covers up what's beneath it. I liked some of his impressionist-esque drawings where he still does the little dots, which you usually only see with paint. Unfortunately, I can't find these drawings on his site, maybe because they're not what he considers final.

Speaking of his website, it's the scariest thing you'll ever see. When Marc says he likes color, he isn't kidding. The site is a little cheesy and overwhelming. Rubin was talking about how he's recently got in to the technology side of art (Flash and web design) and I guess the dorky animations and gross fonts demonstrate that. You can't blame the guy for trying, though.

We were just sitting around talking about all the art and stuff, then my friend asked, "so what was the inspiration for that piece?" gesturing to one of the surrealist cubism pieces. "Oh, a coral reef." Says Rubin. I say "Neat, it kind of reminds me of Salvador Dali." My favorite artist, mind you. Then Rubin says "Well, he was one of my mentors." Oh my gosh! So it was like I practically met Dali, one person removed. How cool is that? So we talked about good 'ol Salvador for a bit.

I thought the whole experience was so cool. Even though it wasn't a formal lecture, I think it was even better. A one-on-one with this awesome artist who just happened to give us directions. I didn't even know he existed before, now I know a lot about him. So if you're ever in Chicago near North Halsted Street, check it out.