

Artist Statement:

Jeffrey S Piper - Current Body of Work:

## **Rewriting History**

“Rewriting History” is an exhibition that explores abstract art and the common viewer. Through years of teaching art education and while also exhibiting my own work, it has been evident that a large number of people are confused and/or turned off by abstract works of art. The misunderstanding of these formal paintings often lead the common viewer to disregard. I have discovered that by placing the simplest of recognizable subjects into an abstract composition, that viewers will now often stop to appreciate (or attempt to understand) an abstract piece. I have found that a connection to imagery is the draw that can hold a viewer whether they are appreciators of content or the composition of the work.

As an abstract painter, my goal is to create intriguing compositions that have the ability to take on different meanings for all those that see the work. Each work has significance to me with it's own storyline, however my hopes are to stir some sense of emotion in others as well. By placing the simple recognizable images to hold a (normally disinterested) viewer's attention I have discovered the ability to bring non-abstract appreciators into a world of non-objective visual communication.

As the work has progressed, my techniques have taken on more of a collaging process and therefore has inspired the inclusion of popular imagery found in common digital prints along with the traditional medium of paint. Through this mixed media approach it is my hope to create a world where iconography and abstract painting can exist harmoniously in one picture plane to bring a new population into the abstract mind of Jeffrey S Piper.