

Sean Hopp

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I once read an interesting theory that the medieval practice of demonic exorcism could be viewed as significantly more relevant to the human psyche as the clinical procedures of modern psychotherapy. The primal forces required to rid oneself of an identifiable entity residing inside the soul tend to permanently cleanse the victim of this energy, rather than consuming the patient with concentric circles of analysis.

Whether the entity is seen as a supernatural being or a mental construct is somewhat irrelevant; the procedure is still very effective in removing an unwanted personality from the deep pantheon of the Self.

I try to balance my painted exorcisms with a respect for the beauty and horror that a supernatural entity (or an elaborately hidden mental construct) might deserve. I use a combination of oil, acrylic, varnish, and ink; working on board, canvas, and masonite.

I paint with both hands, use my fingers more than brushes, and have learned to incorporate the unavoidable textures of dust and cat hair into most of my paintings.

"Dream-like creatures reflecting on the undertones of human life" - Tina Cha, *Daily Northwestern*, November 2002.

"Profound yet didactic, melancholy yet goofy" - Matt Riser, *Newgrave Magazine*, March 2002.

"Disturbing, otherworldly paintings" - Cara Jepsen, *Chicago Reader*, July 2001.

"This is really dark and deep material" - Joost Hegle, *Nephilius*, April 2001.