

Presseanfragen bitte an Rebecca Lilliecrona
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Fax: +49(0)30.2829033

Schwarzenberg e.V.



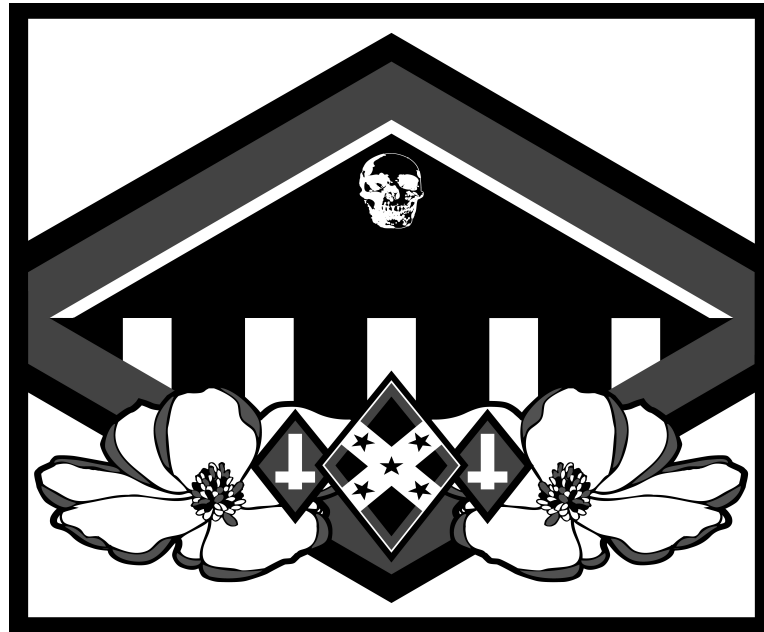
Mr. Ben Venom

I aspire to be a visual commentator on the unique culture found in the Southern United States. Having been born and raised in the dirty south I am very conscious and aware of my Southern roots. I see my work as a reinvention of my southern identity and an attempt to critique and praise this unique and historic geographic region. The majority of the work operates in response to my nickname, *Venom*. Much like a truck driver's handle, *Venom* functions as an identity or brand in the form of flags, dip, or racing teams.

Georgia politics, tobacco, and heavy metal all play a vital role in this ongoing body of work. Issues such as southern state flag rights and rural America's lowbrow aesthetic are borrowed and re-formatted. The number 1987 (or 87) works as a historical signifier for the heydays of heavy metal as well as *Venom's* Nascar number. The bold and outrageous proclamations contained within the *Venom Dip* series simultaneously ridicule and praise tobacco use. Other works address issues of strife and rebellion in response to the Civil War, commonly labeled the War of Northern Aggression.

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Mr. Ben Baumgartner (a.k.a. Mr. Ben Venom) aspires to be a visual commentator for the unique culture found in the Southeastern United States. He attempts to re-invent his southern identity while simultaneously critiquing and praising a distinct region in America. His work has been shown all across the United States with recent shows in California, Georgia, and Minnesota. Last summer he received an emerging artist scholarship to attend a printmaking intensive at the Anderson Ranch Art Center in Aspen, Colorado. Mr. Baumgartner received an M.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2007 and a B.F.A. from Georgia State University in 2001. Mr. Baumgartner currently teaches Screen-Printing for the San Francisco Art Institute's City Studio Program.

Resume

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Selected Exhibitions

- 2008 (Forthcoming) *Untitled*, Neurotitan Gallery, Berlin, Germany
Under 100, Root Division, San Francisco, CA
Shape, Lobot Gallery, Oakland, CA
Misery Factory, Southern Graphics Council, Richmond, VA
- 2007 *Vernissage*, Herbst Pavilion, San Francisco, CA
Skate or Die 3, Youngblood Gallery, Atlanta, GA
S.F.A.I. Now, Red Ink Studios, San Francisco, CA
Time Capsule, Toyroom Gallery, Sacramento, CA
SF Grotto presents *Driving Obsessions*, Mezzanine Space, San Francisco, CA
New Years Revolution 2, Space 10 Art Warehouse, Charleston, SC
Invitational Group Show, *Home*, Youngblood Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2006 Invitational Group Show, Audio Cinema, Portland, OR
SFPO Art Auction, 111 Mina Gallery, San Francisco, CA
666, Blankspace Gallery, Oakland, CA
Works Around Process, Playspace Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2005 *Post Baccalaureate Graduating Show*, Mc Bean Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Skate or Die 2, Youngblood Gallery, Atlanta, GA
S.F.A.I. Printmakers Group, Diego Rivera Gallery, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA
- 2004 Solo show: *Doss Cousin Reunion 2004*, Eyedrum Gallery,

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Atlanta, GA

Juried Exhibitions

- 2007 *Paper Cuts*, Fetterly Gallery, Vallejo, CA
 Beyond Printmaking: Juried Exhibition, Landmark Arts Gallery,
 Lubbock, TX
 American Print, Foothills Art Center, Golden, CO
 Home, Root Division, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 *Minnesota 6th Biannual Juried Print Competition*, Kathrine Nash
 Gallery-Tweed Museum, Minneapolis, MN
 Ventura College Annual Juried Print Competition, Ventura, CA
- 2003 2nd Biennial curated group show by Barkin-Leeds Ltd., Suntrust
 Plaza Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2002 *Two at the Temple*, curated by Joey Orr, Pythagoras Masonic
 Temple, Decatur, GA

Awards

- 2007 Jurors Choice Award, *Beyond Printmaking: Juried Exhibition*,
 Landmark Arts Gallery, Lubbock, TX
 Emerging Artist Printmaking Scholarship, Anderson Ranch,
 Snowmass Village, CO
- 2006 Teaching Assistantship with Tim Berry, *Monotype to Silkscreen*,
 San Francisco Art Institute
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San Francisco Art Institute
Teaching Assistantship with Master Printer Daria Sywulak,
Photo-Gravure, San Francisco Art Institute

2001 Vera Jernigan Green Memorial Art Award

Collections

Robert Flynn Johnson, Curator, The Achenbach Foundation for
Graphic Arts at the Palace of the Legion of Honor, San
Francisco, CA
San Francisco Art Institute Print Gala 2006

Professional Experience

2008 Instructor for Pre-College Program, *Silkscreen and Photographic
Printmaking*, San Francisco Art Institute
Instructor for Adult Community Education, *Versatility in
Multiples in Screen 2*, San Francisco Art Institute
Instructor for Adult Community Education, *Versatility in
Multiples in Screen*, San Francisco Art Institute

2007 Instructor for Adult Community Education, *Intermediate Screen-
Printing*, San Francisco Art Institute
Instructor for Adult Community Education, *Beginning Screen-
Printing*, San Francisco Art Institute
Instructor for Adult Education, *D.I.Y. Screen-Printing*,
Root Division, San Francisco, CA
Visiting Artist in Printmaking, *Screen-Print Workshop*,
Untitled Artspace, Oklahoma City, OK
Instructor for Young Artist Program, *Screen-Printing*,

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San Francisco Art Institute

Instructor for Adult Community Education (Summer), *Screen-Printing*, San Francisco Art Institute

2006 Instructor for Young Artist Summer Program, *Screen-Printing*,
San Francisco Art Institute

Lectures

2007 *Welcome to Venom's Lounge*, Untitled Artspace,
Oklahoma City, OK

Exhibition Catalogs

Home: Juried Exhibition Catalog, Root Division, July 2007

Beyond Printmaking:

Juried Exhibition Catalog, Landmark Arts, February 2007

The Minnesota National Print Biennial, University of Minnesota, 2006

San Francisco Art Institute Print Gala, 2007

San Francisco Art Institute Admissions Catalog, 2006

Education

2007 M.F.A. *Printmaking*, San Francisco Art Institute

2005 Post Baccalaureate Certificate, San Francisco Art Institute

2001 Santana Reparata International School of Art, Florence, Italy

B.F.A. *Drawing and Painting*, Georgia State University

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