

Rue Five

Biography

26-year-old Rue Five seems to go by many titles: artist, loser, drop-out, vandal, wanderer and Scotsman. After periods of circumstance abuse he retreated into a world of his own making. His work now open is unembarrassed and thoughtful. Direct and honest.

A life fuelled by regret and idiosyncratic nihilism is expressed through the isolation of his characters and repetitive nature of his patterns.

His pieces combine this imagery and iconography with past traditions of folk art, craft, vintage signage and visual mythologies. These influences are interwoven to create a trenchant body of work that is equal part folly and hard luck story.

Streetwise and fanciful Rue Five's creations inhabit an Autumnal tinged world.

He has drawn empathetic inspiration from a family history of mental illness plus the study of tribal aspects of societal human behaviour, giving him an insight into the territorial nature of the denizens that inhabit his world. His work comprises a variety of mediums including painting, drawing, typography, sculpture, photography, film, animation, sound and graffiti.

His art touches on the notion of survival and instinct.

His interests include: anthropology, ephemera, lore, music, nostalgia, religions, skateboarding, superstitions, the forest and the city, words and language.

Solo Exhibitions

2011 *Folk-Life presents: Deathlust*, 32 Barnton Street, Stirling

2007 *Finger Discount*, The Changing Room, Stirling

Joint Exhibitions

2009 *Crystal Is The New Wolf* with Will Barras, Recoat, Glasgow

How Children Learn parts I & II with David Galletly, The Changing Room, Stirling

Selected Group Exhibitions

2011 *Team Recoat*, V&A Street Art Festival, Lace Market Gallery, Nottingham
442, Recoat, Glasgow

2009 *The Joyful Bewilderment*, Here Gallery, Bristol

2008 *Holiday Special*, Recoat, Glasgow

The Cans II Festival, The Leake St. Tunnel, London

Deckheads, Amble Gallery & Books, Philadelphia

2007 *We Can Work It Out*, The GRV Project, Edinburgh

Take To The Woods, Analogue, Edinburgh

Voluntary Action 10th anniversary of The Changing Room, Stirling

Tell Tale presents: Wanderlust installation at Sub Octo Gallery, Philadelphia

2006 *Complete Control*, at Flesh, Edinburgh

Tell Tale, installation at Patrioathall, Edinburgh

Blurring The Neatline, installation at The Embassy, Edinburgh

Rouge, at Flesh, Edinburgh

All Things Are Merely Dreams, installation at This Way Up, The Dragon Bar, London

2005 *Protest Against the Rising Tide of Conformity*, at Flesh, Edinburgh

Selected Commissions

2010 Store signage and murals, The Junk Rooms, Stirling

Store signage and murals, Barnton Street Music, Stirling

2009 Editorial illustrations, Overspray Magazine, New York

2008 Personal cartography workshops for schools, Stirling

Mural and window display, Analogue Books, Edinburgh

Exhibition flyers, The Changing Room, Stirling

Ready Go Steady, club flyers and identity, Stirling

Identity for Mabel Press, Philadelphia

Textile design for fashion shoot, Overspray Magazine, New York

2007 Store signage, Amble Gallery & Books, Philadelphia

Assisted on a mural at The GRV Project, Edinburgh

T-Shirt design for 10th anniversary of The Changing Room, Stirling

2006 *This Is Music*, gig posters, Edinburgh

Press

“ Stirling's artistic trailblazer. ” - Stirling News

“ One of the area's hottest talents. Stirling's most original young artist... draws together the ephemera of the city. ” - Stirling Observer

“ A show like this really makes you forget about jetlag. ” - Carmen Winant, Philadelphia Weekly

“ As young as Rue Five is, his exhibition history is impressive having shown work extensively throughout Scotland as well as London and Philadelphia. ” - Clutter Magazine

“ There is an enjoyable feeling of whimsy... and a sense that modern big-city life is only a marginal influence. ” - James Garner, The Metro

“ Intricate illustrations, psychedelic drawings and abstract patterns. ” - Evening Times

“ An intriguing twist on street art... Rue Five's work springs from a more personal source of inspiration. In his two displays he brings together various elements, such as drawing, painting, sewing, typography and photography. Strong, confidently drawn angular figures – some of which appear to be struggling to contain multicoloured tendrils that seem to be escaping from their stomachs – sit alongside Ruscha-like single painted words, while little tabs covered with graffiti style text dangle from behind the frames. ” - Liz Shannon, The List

“He makes drawings and paintings... beautifully bruised and rough around the edges, with red stitches holding [them] together. And his photography renders everyday moments quiet, whether the camera be focused on friends self-consciously flashing looks at the lens or scraps of daily life.” - Cathleen Pennell Cueto II, Swings and Arrows

Rue Five was listed along side Nigel Peake, David Shrigley, Lizzy Stewart and Nous Vous Collective in Design*Sponge's 2009 Best of British Illustration.

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