





PAUL NORMANSELL

Paul Normansell is an abstract artist from Birmingham blurring the lines between art and music through colour, shape and sound. Normansell has been exhibiting his work since 2001 and optical illusions feature heavily in his pieces, as do dot portraits. Paul created the album artwork for The Killers' Day and Age album and FAULT can't wait to see what Normansell does next...

FAULT: How do you describe your work?

Paul: I would describe it as pop art meeting modern day pointillism.

FAULT: What is the creative process of your work?

Paul: I use magazines, photos and any images that inspire me; either with what the image is saying, the composition or the colours. When I have decided on images I like, I draw them out, playing around with colours, cropping the images and backgrounds. When I have decided on the final image, I draw it on to the aluminium and then paint a section at a time using gloss paint. Each dot is painted by hand using a fine brush.

FAULT: What was the defining moment in your life that made you decide to take the path of an artist?

Paul: I don't think there was one specific moment. I enjoyed art at school and therefore pursued it at university. One of the most defining moments was my final degree show; seeing my work exhibited, the responses from people viewing my work and galleries approaching me to exhibit my work. It was that point that made me realise I wanted to pursue a career as an artist.

FAULT: What is it like being an artist in Birmingham?

Paul: There is beginning to be more of an art and fashion scene in Birmingham, but it still has a long way to go to compete with London, Manchester and some of the other big cities in terms of art. There are some good galleries in Birmingham but it is not perceived as a city with a big art scene. Through The Artlounge I have had some good opportunities to showcase my work such as the recent Style in the City event, where my one of my paintings was used for some of the imagery, and the recent art fair in Manchester.

FAULT: How did the Killers' collaboration come about?

Paul: It was a fantastic opportunity and was very surreal. I first got a phone call in the middle of the night from the band's manager who left a message on my answer phone. When I listened to the message I couldn't believe it, and looked at my emails and I had received a couple of emails from him too. The original idea was for me to produce an abstract for the back cover, which progressed to painting the front and back cover and four portraits of the band. It was amazing working with the band; and really great meeting them, attending their concerts and seeing my art work everywhere in shops and at their shows.

FAULT: Is there anyone else you would like to work with?

Paul: Yes there are many people I would like to work with. I would particularly like to collaborate with fashion photographers, and together create images to paint. I would also love to collaborate with fashion designers to incorporate my art work into clothing ranges and designs. I would like to work with other bands creating album art work.

FAULT: What are you currently reading?

Paul: I don't get time to read that much as that the moment as all my time is dedicated to painting. However I do read many fashion and music magazines when scanning them for images.

FAULT: What are you currently working on?

Paul: At the moment I am working on a commission for a client in the US who has commissioned several paintings from me. I am painting an underwater scene of coral and fish, which was his idea and something I haven't done before. I am also in the process of setting up some photo shoots with a photographer friend of mine, and taking some images that I will paint for a show in April.

FAULT: What has been your biggest influence?

Paul: There are many artists who have influenced my style. Patrick Caulfield, Julian Opie and Ian Davenport are among my favourites. Music also influences a lot of my work as it is a big passion of mine.

FAULT: How does music influence your work?

Paul: I can't survive without music and I certainly wouldn't be able to paint without it. My abstract paintings are influenced by patterns, moods and sounds created through music. All of my paintings are titled from song lyrics or song titles.

FAULT: What does the future hold for Paul Normansell?

Paul: I would like to exhibit my work more widely around the world, but at the moment it is difficult to keep up with the demand for paintings, so I would like time to create some pieces to exhibit in Japan, USA, and Paris, etc. I would also like to collaborate with other professionals such as fashion photographers, designers and other artists.

FAULT: Do you have a personal favourite of your own?

Paul: There are several of my portraits that I would count as favourites, such as Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe and Kate. However, I think my all time favourite is my first dot portrait of Agyness Deyn as it is very vibrant, energetic and current, and it really captures the mood and youthful playfulness of a modern, fashion icon.

FAULT: What do you think of contemporary art?

Paul: I like a lot of contemporary art, especially pieces that have sometime to say or are cleverly executed. I have never been into conceptual or performance art as I find a lot of it doesn't show real artistic talent. I'm always drawn to painters.

FAULT: What is the biggest compliment you have ever received?

Paul: Being described as a modern day Warhol or Lichtenstein was pretty amazing, but also being told the Killers were fans of my work was pretty amazing too.

FAULT: What is your FAULT?

Paul: I am a perfectionist which means everything I do takes twice as long.

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