

Born in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1960, Chaslav Krstich emigrated to the USA while he was still a very young child. Influenced by an artistic family, Chas exhibited a talent for photography at an early age, learning from his father the aesthetic and technical knowledge necessary to process and print black and white photographs before he entered junior high school.

While still in high school Chas discovered the wonder of film making to add to his arsenal of art making weapons. This led him to attend Southern Illinois University, receiving his BA in Cinema and Photography in 1982. In the years since graduating Chas has had a successful career as a video editor, and expanded his artistic repertoire into painting.

For more than 20 years, Chas has regularly exhibited at national and local competitions. While still in college he was honored by inclusion in an exhibit at the State Museum of Illinois. At the American West Coast Censorship Competition, a local Sacramento television station called his "Blue Boy", an impressionistic photograph of a nude boy, one of the most controversial works in the show, while censoring the photograph on the air. His painting "Watching John Brown Hang" was included in the 1995 ARC Regional Competition judged by Richard Francis, Head Curator for the Museum of the Contemporary of Art in Chicago. He has won awards at numerous competitions including a prize at the Midwest Mini's '95 in Cape Girardeau, MO. and first place at the annual art fair in Glen Ellyn, IL.

In his art are influences that range from medieval icons to African sculpture to Modern art and the German Expressionists. His art is a fluctuation between an illusionist narrative style and an abstract nonrepresentational style. One allows him to bring up and exhibit stories, history, even images pulled from the unconscious. The other frees him to explore colors, forms, methods for showing movement and rhythms in the visual two dimensions.

His work has been collected by individuals and companies across the country and around the world from Canada to Argentina, from Japan to Great Britain as well as numerous other countries in between.

For the last two years, Chas has been pursuing a Masters of Arts degree in Art History at Governors State University.

ChasSK

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