



There's a big purple book that lies next to Micah Sherrill's living room chair. It's his film guide—his metaphorical popcorn, so to speak—full of the trivia he crunches while watching movies. *What year was the film first released? Who were the original stars? Did it win any awards?*

"I'm very much a product of all the things I watched growing up and later, while making art," he says. "Film, television, and photography have always been big influences in my work—more so than other art, really."

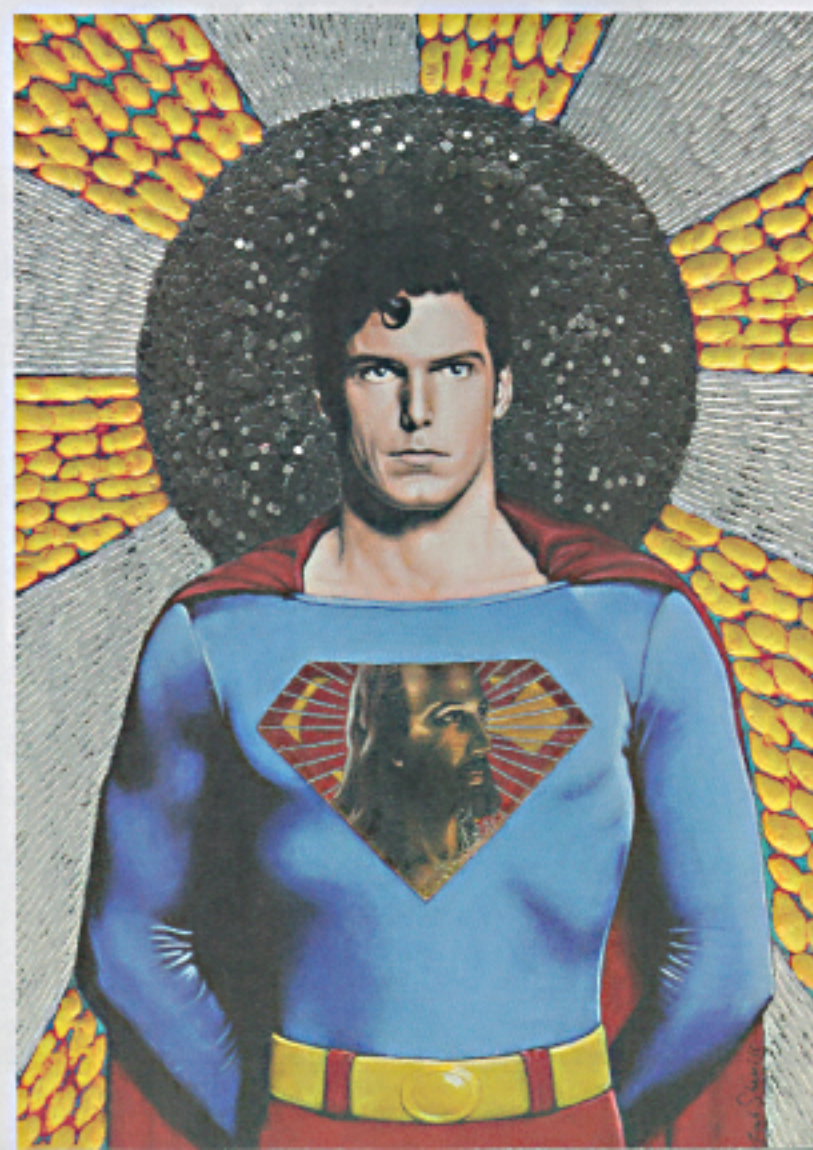
It's his love of the cinema that he brings to life in his latest series of "iconic photo-realistic surrealism." His work stars the big screen's legends old and new: Judy Garland, Wonder Woman, Humphrey Bogart, Harrison Ford, Alfred Hitchcock, Elvis. The cast goes on.

In Micah's world, however, roles can be cast as he pleases. Characters who might otherwise never meet share the space on his canvas. Here, Humphrey Bogart can share a drink with the beasts from Maurice Sendak's children's classic, *Where the Wild Things Are*. Or Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* can share the stage with Amelie, the naughty-yet-nice heroine of modern-day film.

"It's an odd science putting these unrelated characters together. Sometimes I juxtapose things intentionally, sometimes I don't. But I do like making people think about why these characters are together," says Micah.

How does he do it—that photorealism thing? Even Micah isn't sure. The son of an artist, he grew up in the art world, playing in his father's ceramics studio. Photo-realism is a style to which his work evolved naturally, and that he continues to perfect.

Although it's difficult to discern from photos of his work, Micah is a multimedia artist involved in blending materials, techniques, and styles. Paints are just the beginning of his palette. The world makes up the rest.



## FEATURE ARTIST: MICAH SHERRILL

### Iconic Photo-Realistic Surrealism



"I like playing with materials until I arrive at a technique that I find interesting, and then I tuck that away and keep it with me to use again and again. I like exploiting anything that has aesthetic value to me—plastic beads, nails, starfish, colored pencils, whatever—and prefer developing techniques on my own, instead of following the examples of others."

As his celebrity series winds to a close, Micah has started brainstorming about what might come next. He's seriously considering spending time with the "misunderstood monsters" of film—such friendly foes as Godzilla and Frankenstein's monster

and Darth Vader. He can't help but see them as empathetic representations of the human condition.

"I want to make the cultural icons in my life have spiritual conversations and I want fiction and fable to become illustrations of real truth."

Micah's celebrity series is on exhibit at Blue Spiral 1 Gallery in downtown Asheville through August 30. To reach the gallery, visit [bluespiral1.com](http://bluespiral1.com), or call 251.020 or tollfree at 800.291.2513. He can also be reached at [micahsherrill@yahoo.com](mailto:micahsherrill@yahoo.com).

