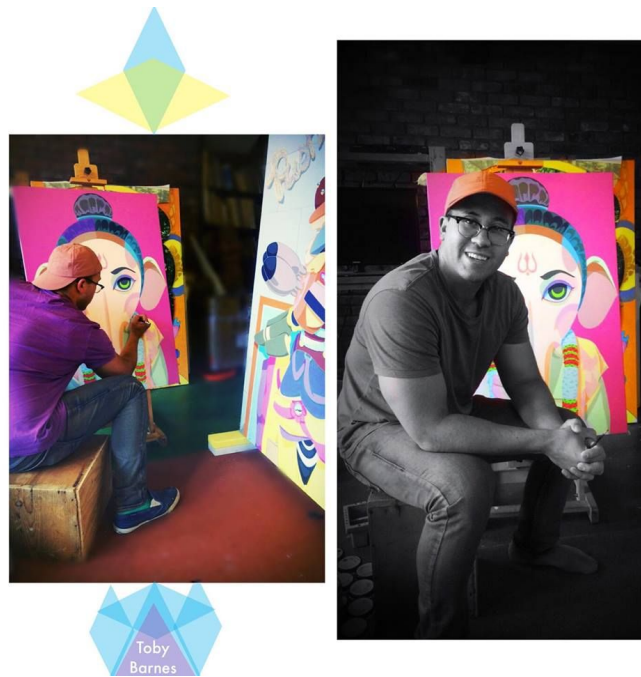


## *Artist Toby Barnes*



Artist Toby Barnes

I was recently so impressed by this artist named Toby Barnes.

Mr. Barnes, now resides in the Northeast and his current works represent encounters between the shrinking private and public distinction, hence its impact on our society which has become dominated by techno-savviness. From paintings and installations that explore Hindu and Buddhist practices of creating sacred spaces for personal worship, to the influence of graphically enhanced Millennial culture staples, like cartoons and video games, Barnes' art is representative of rituals that carve out the generational objectivity that becomes a perspective, for which to experience the visual representation of an art form.

Having attended Cooper- this super easy going artist divulged his influence as well as his motivation.

...

What inspired you to become an artist?

“Honestly, I think when I won my first art contest, in 3rd grade... I believe when you are going in the right direction, things sort of fall into place and it has been that way for me with art... I kind of go where things take me.”

...

So you live in the moment and use that same influence in your work?

“Art has saved me so many times... Art has been a friend, a protector. In life, when you are doing what you are supposed to be doing, everything just sort of falls into place.”

...

How does your cultural and ethnic identification, inspire your work?

“Honestly, I think it caused me to have a different perspective. They say that people who are bilingual, which I am, kind of see things in a different perspective. So it is always about seeing or hearing and then re-processing and then being able to see things on multiple levels versus just one way.”

...

You mention Eastern Philosophy and Buddhist, Hindu worship practices, which you found in spirituality to be so interesting...

“What I have taken from that, is that a lot of these concepts in the Buddhist and the Hindu art making or worshiping, they always have this underlying way of allowing you to focus... because people want to see a new way of seeing things, so I thought I would incorporate or marry the things that I like. I have always been fond of when I have traveled to Asia, ever since I was a kid, visiting temples with religious works, the way I justify it, is as installations for example.”

...

“My painting style is a process in itself, a layering of basically what I have gone through, how I have internalized all of my life experiences and my education and it is

executed that way. So for example, my paintings are based on the composition book of religious imagery and in particular they are called, Yantra.

What a Yantra is, a vehicle for focusing visually on something for meditation purposes, so I took that idea and then I built on it as my composition.

Like my paintings you can't really tell, where one begins and where one ends, and kind of producing like this togetherness in the end."

...



...

Tell me a little about your painting, the paintings that drew me to you of the young girls?

"To go in deeper, they were basically a series of child deities and India has this tradition, for every God, they will have a child or basically a story."

To know more about Toby Barnes Art, [Click Here](#)