

Third Time's The Charm: Steven Gavel Showcases Again and Again

Georgia-native artist Steven Gavel creates paintings and more made to inspire introspection and philosophizing within viewers. An active participant in his local arts community, he frequently showcases his creative abilities in exhibitions as well as behind the scenes for Collage magazine.

Art & Design (AAD): Welcome Steven, thank you for joining me today. So, tell me about yourself and the artwork you create.

Steven: I was born in Georgia but spent most of my life in Middle Tennessee. In 2018, I enrolled at MTSU where I'm currently finishing up my junior year with a focus on painting. My work is interdisciplinary and the mediums that I use drive the narrative to my art. My main body of art ranges from traditional oil paintings to sculptural painting designs that place a focus on materials and unorthodox techniques, derived from abstract expressionism, pop-art, and other recent contemporary movements.

Variation is another focus of my education, as new processes, such as metal fabrication, lithography, silk screen printing, monotypes, wood fabrication and ceramics are essential to growing my work. My goal is to make work that builds on philosophical ideas, challenges the status-quo, and offers the viewer a chance to self-reflect. A few themes spread across my body of work include the frailty of life, the triumph of death, and controlled chaos.

AAD: I believe I remember seeing your art in the gallery here before, is that correct?

Steven: Yes, I've taken part in three shows at Todd Art Gallery so far! The first one was the 2018 group exhibition "One Liner Show", in 2019 I did "The Wild Beasts" in partnership with Jacob Yandle, and most recently I had a solo exhibition this year called "Pareidolia and Isotropy".

AAD: We're so glad you keep coming back! What achievements have you made elsewhere?

Steven: I'm an active member of the local arts community, so I do a variety of things on and off campus. At MTSU, I'm involved in the Student Art Alliance and serve as the Visual Arts Editor for MTSU Collage Magazine's 2021 Spring calendar. I've also showcased in several Murfreesboro art crawl events, as well as in the 2018 'Dogma Dance Off' music and art festival in Murfreesboro, TN. In addition, my work has been published by Goldsoundz Zine, a Nashville based art magazine.

AAD: Sounds like you're one busy artist. We can't wait to see what you accomplish next with your work! Maybe you'll even return to show in the gallery again before graduation?

Steven: Maybe I will! Thanks for having me.

AAD: Thank you for speaking with us, until next time.