

Small World

By Regan Rosburg

The title “small world” implies an inherent irony. One’s “world” can be either immediate and small, or all-encompassing and vast. Worlds can be actual physical places, places in time, memories, or future projections. They can be a realm or domain, or they can be a state of mind, a state of existence, or a particular way of life. In any case, it is a real or imagined dome around the organism that observes its environment (real or abstract) as its “world.”

Daily, we observe our world becoming at once larger *and* smaller. Cultures across oceans become neighbors through the shared experience of the human drama, yet can still remain a kind of disconnected theater that plays out on our televisions. We feel alone in our daily encounters with work, jobs, relationships, and politics...and yet we are becoming increasingly aware of this ubiquitous truth: what we do in our immediate surroundings directly affects the surroundings of those around us, even those oceans away. What is the effect of one’s small/large environment on their daily life, and can a change of mental or physical space change one’s world? How much does the environment that we create say about our personal legacy as individuals, and our collective legacy as a species?

This show implies an open-ended, narrative theatre. There is an intimacy and personal poetry in each painting, which is at once childlike and mysterious, and yet offers the same meandering, melancholy distortion of Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland. The work suggests the mighty burdens that are carried by the individual and the group. It implies that which holds us back, and that which supports us and gives us the loftiness to take flight. It implies the evolution of the natural world, a world that instinctively incorporates technology with ancient wisdom. It implies that despite being sometimes burdened by archaic patterns and beliefs, we have a vast capacity for new ideas and determination to do what’s right. It implies the rites of passage, passion, and rebellion of a tattooed culture, incorporating a legacy of ancient rituals and provocative ideals of beauty.

This show illustrates the bright, colorful, breathtaking possibilities of a child’s mind, complete with the wonders of our world that unfold daily...like marvels of a circus...if we only pay attention. It is the rabbit hole of unfolding possibilities, sitting there for us to pick like strawberries in a garden.