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Paper artist scissors his way to Funky Biddha

MarcPaperScissor, apparently, has never gotten a paper cut.

Sure, he insists, calluses have grown on his hands from slugging acoustic guitars in his jam band. His fingertips were never exactly friendly with the business end of an X-Acto knife. But a 25-year-old artist whose career and lifeblood is building vivid paper art installations using just paper stock, a pair of kitchen scissors, a black Sharpie and his noggin?

What gives?

"I'm not lying. It's true," laughed the six-year paper artist from his apartment (and makeshift craft studio) in Delray Beach during an interview last week. "The paper gods are watching out for me. I don't know how this happened."

A handful of Marc's picturesque paper works are debuting this Friday night during his group Art and Music Showcase at The Funky Buddha in Boca Raton. A smattering of his artist buddies — oil painter Carlos Solano, tattoo artist Sol de Reao — will perform live art demonstrations. Meanwhile, Marc and Ron Fisser (lead guitarist from

the Deerfield Beach reggae band The Resolvers) plan on cranking out their original acoustic jam band tunes.

Influenced by the 1960s countercultural "cosmic art" of Pop artist Peter Max, the politicized afrobeat music of African artist Fela Kuti and countless childhood hours devoted to video gaming on the Sega Genesis, the former Tamarc resident specializes in punching out these Abstract Expressionist cartoon installations and has a strange fondness for neon colors. A tour of his website reveals Marc's gallery of images, which reads like a psychedelic rhapsody of the bizarre: headless men are clad in sinister business suits, purple, demon-like creatures sport electric blue robes with an old-fashioned projector reel in place of their heads, multi-tentacled brains wrap mauve-colored appendages around the Earth. A horizontal cut paper creation dubbed "Animal Party" looks boosted from a Beatles album cover, showing anthropomorphized zoo animal heads posing in all-white business suits.

"Every artist has their

way of doing things, and I prefer paper and regular old scissors," he said. "It means more than simple shapes. I started using paper because it was functional and simplistic. Because it wasn't messy like paint. I could cut it up on the floor of my carpet, and all I needed was a pair of scissors. The way I was cutting paper shapes was a meticulous, time-consuming process."

He starts the process of mounting each installation by snipping archival card stock paper into random shapes, which would later inspire more abstract forms that vary from snails with Egyptian hieroglyphs to flying guitars, and adhering the shapes collage-style onto archival map boards with glue sticks. These days, he's been swapping sticks for archival glue and decoupage. He admits scissoring paper isn't the most-efficient way to make paper art but said he's driven by the challenge — and the respect it fosters from people who understand the harder process.

MarcPaperScissor discovered his penchant for paper craft in high school for an art assignment, but interest waned until high-



CRAFT MUSIC MarcPaperScissor, a 25-year-old cut paper artist/jam band musician, plays his Friday night art and music showcase at The Funky Buddha in Boca Raton. Bottom, the former Tamarc resident plays at a local club. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

way through college at the University of Central Florida.

"I was kind of just going through a weird transitional phase, trying to figure out where my place was in the world. I realized that people gain their sense of self through exposure to television and exposure to ads and the corporate world. I noticed a system that I couldn't relate to, so I just kind of became a hermit in my apartment and cut paper for awhile," he said of his early-twenties existential crisis. "I stopped going to class. I felt like I had to put myself through the gauntlet mentally and closest myself, sitting in the forest sort of like Siddhartha Gautama."

Of course, it's easy to liken the paper artist/sometimes graphic designer's vocation to grade-school arts and crafts. But it's more accurate to say MarcPaperScissor spurs an intellectual goulash of broad ideas — Buddhist principles, ancient civilizations, technology, Apoca-

lyptic predictions — onto his paper-thin creations. His "World View," a behemoth of an installation that took four months to scissor, glue and mount, for example, depicts a futuristic metropolis of satellites, smokesacks billowing thick, black pollutants and rockets protruding from the ground. Images of the sun and pyramids are likewise symbols of faith and death, respectively.

"I want to make something awesome that has meaning behind it, that has social commentary," he added. "I want to focus on chakras and the path to enlightenment next and focus my work on the state of the universe, environmentalism and how we're so disconnected."

Lately, Marc's cut-paper creations have taken a back seat to commissioned graphic design work, a necessary evil to gain exposure in the art community while still pulling a steady income. It means sacrificing those exclusive, four-month marathons of

cutting paper in his apartment because his priorities are changing. He's jam-banding more, and, these last several months, he has designed CD cover artwork for The Resolvers, promo posters for a music streaming website and carving a 12-foot-tall bear wood sculpture for next year's Bear Creek Music Festival in Live Oak.

"MarcPaperJigsaw is what people call me now, because I wood carve," he said. "I feel like, as an artist, you need to have a couple of hustles working at once. I've been really blessed the last couple of months, getting a bunch of commissions. I know so many great artists and I'm feeling more secure than ever."

MarcPaperScissor performs his Art and Music Showcase at The Funky Buddha, 2923 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. The cover is \$5, Call 561-368-4643, or visit TheFunkyBuddha.com.

