

CHRIS RIVERS - MANCHESTER - ENGLAND



Chris Rivers is a self taught artist from Manchester, England. A former professional rock drummer turned artist, Chris began painting in 2013 whilst touring the world as drummer for UK rock band Heaven's Basement.

“I really fell into painting by accident if I'm honest. Everything at that time was full throttle, I needed something to occupy my mind and free time when I was touring. It started by painting damaged drumskins and broken cymbals after the shows. They started selling it right away and it gave me the confidence to do more and more and I found myself spending days off on tour just painting. I come from a very artistic background, a very creative family. Since I left school I've lived in a creative bubble.

Chris spent around 10 years as a professional drummer, sharing the stage alongside bands such as Aerosmith, Metallica and playing some of the biggest hard rock festivals in the world but it came to end in Nov 2016.

“A lot of changes happened in my life, both personally and with the band so I felt the time was right for me to step away, I love drumming, sharing the stage with my friends and touring the world but there's also a lot of baggage that comes with the lifestyle of being in a band, my heart and mind wasn't in it anymore and at this point I'd also become completely obsessed with painting and everything to do with it. It was clear to me that was the path for me to go down”



Chris's very rapid development has led to interest in his art from all across the world, he describes his style of painting as very organic, impulsive and based on trial and error.

“I paint what inspires and excites me, my paintings all tend to come from story ideas, similar to the way a song tells a story. I love anything that is thought provoking and leaves room for the viewer to make their own interpretation of it.

In terms of my technique its very much based on trial and error! I've got no training so I've found things that work for me, I love the point where a painting can crash and burn or turn into something great, it keeps me engaged! My technique is quite aggressive, I paint like I play drums!

There's a constant theme of contrast within my work, finding the darker angle on something that seems innocent and sweet at first look. My Savages of Eden series for example is based on the idea that not everything is always what it seems from a distance, something that looks pretty from a far can often tell a different, more unsettling story when you look closer “

There's a series called 'The Beekeepers aswell which has a representation of my twin daughters going forward into an unknown world, represented by a surreal type landscape, and the bee's which represent my home town Manchester and its industrial past and their unknown future. Quite a dark theme but its my girls that give the paintings hope, their going forward with full confidence and hope even if us adults maybe don't have that in todays world! I never planned to get too deep with my paintings, sometimes its a lot simpler than that, but every painting at some stages takes on its own life.”

Chris is currently painting on a full time basis from his studio space in Lancashire, England.

You can find out more about Chris and contact him at chrisriversart.com