



- 1 Photo of Bobby taken by the artist in El Sereno, near his home in Los Angeles.
- 2 Photo taken by Lil Mikey, aka Ghost (now deceased) of 'Bobby', age 15, posing with an AK-47 on one of his 'home trips' allowed during an 18 month stay in a boy's home operating within the juvenile justice system.
- 3 *Saint Mary Magdalene* by Gregor Erhart, c. 1515–20, The Louvre.
- 4 An augmented found drawing depicting 'crowning,' the moment in childbirth when the head first appears.
- 5 See [3]
- 6 Bobby, in the studio, ready for a job interview at a medical marijuana clinic.
- 8 Illustration showing Christians being tortured and killed in the Roman Coliseum.
- 9 Conquistadors ('conquerors') were soldiers who colonized the Americas with hopes of winning souls for God while extracting great riches. They were responsible for the near extermination of the native population.
- 10 Photograph of the artist's son taken by Bobby in front of his grandmother's house in East Los Angeles, across from General Hospital and USC Medical Center.
- 11 A glass Pyrex measuring cup is a well-known tool used in process of turning cocaine into crack
- 12 Illustration of a scene in Cervantes' novel *Don Quixote* (1605), in which the titular protagonist (now synonymous with foolish idealism) encounters young Andres, a picaro (young rogue), strapped to a tree being beaten by his master. Quixote exhorts the master to be fair and stop his beating, and he complies, only to start up again once the knight is out of sight. Like all poor boys in the Spanish picaresque literary tradition, while blatantly the victim of exploitation, Andres is still no angel.
- 13 Sketch of Bobby made by a student during a live modeling session in Prof. Stark's intermediate drawing class at USC.
- 14 From *The Book of Genesis Illustrated by R. Crumb*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2009.

- 15 Frances, age 13, practicing for cheerleading tryouts for Serrano Middle School whose team was The Conquistadors. Photo by DeWayne Stark.
- 16 Parable: An old lady discovers a snake mangled on the side of the road. She brings it home, nurses it back to health, grows quite fond of the snake and treats him like a pet. Once recovered he bites her and she cries out 'Why did you do that!?' and he answers 'Lady, I'm a snake.'
- 17 Evidence presented to the artist by a camp counselor on which is written her son's name with a note to **TALK TO PARENTS**. Inside the bag is contraband (purloined from his mother).
- 18 Page from USC's magazine announcing the \$75 million gift to create 'The Jimmy Iovine and Andre Young Academy for Arts, Technology and Business of Innovation.' Iovine and Young (aka Dr. Dre) are partners in the company that sells Beats by Dre headphones.
- 19 From: Schiff, Karen L. 'Slow Reveal.' *Art in America*. June/July. 2013: p. 51. Caption: Martin in her New York studio, 1960. Photo: Alexander Liberman.
- 20 A symposium offering artists, students and educators a forum to seriously consider what we want our schools to be, and do; an opportunity to freely imagine what should be done, unhindered by administrative worries about what can't possibly be done. Organized by the artist, poster designed with Stuart Bailey.
- 21 *Building of Castle Khawarnaq, wherein the chamber of the seven icons will be hidden*, by Bihzād
- 22 Etching by Anton Lehmden, *Colosseum*, 1959–61, from The Grunwald Collection, The Hammer Museum
- 23 The mascot of the University of Southern California is Tommy Trojan scene here atop his horse named 'Traveler' at USC's home stadium, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.
- 24 A Crip fights a Blood on a Los Angeles street.
- 25 *Mi Madre de los Angeles* by Fabian Debora, 2009 reproduced for the cover of Jorja Leap's *Jumped In: What Gangs Taught Me About Violence, Drugs, Love, and Redemption*. Massachusetts: Beacon Press, 2012.

- 26 Still from Ingmar Bergman's film adaptation of Mozart's *Magic flute*.
- 27 Iconic portrait of Tupac Shakur taken by Shawn Mortensen in 1993. Tupac's tattoo, 'THUG LIFE', is an acronym for 'The Hate U Give Little Infants Fucks Everyone'.
- 28 *David with the Head of Goliath*, 1597–98, Amerighi Caravaggio (Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna)
- 29 Mark Leckey in the *Long Tail*, a performance at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, on January 31, 2009 (Photo: Mark Blower). The 'Long Tail' describes a distribution model in contradistinction to the 'head' or the mainstream. E.g. the Kardashians (head) vs. UbuWeb (tail).
- 30 Poster for 2011 performance *Put a Song in your Thing*, featuring Skerrit Bwoy with the artist Frances Stark. Photo by Nadya Wasylo
- 31 *The Book of David* is the 8th studio album by Los Angeles-based artist, DJ Quik, released by Mad Science in 2011.
- 32 *Matisse and his Model*, by Brassai, 1930
- 33 Father Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, talking with a homie.
- 34 Shawn Mortensen's 1994 portrait of Ice Cube (a founding member of N.W.A.) pictured reading the autobiography of Dick Gregory.
- 35 Bobby assisting in the artist's studio, cutting out bullet holes to be used in a collage.
- 36 Photo of Bobby, my son, and his two best friends spray-painting on cardboard in my studio parking lot overlooking The LA County Jail, aka Twin Towers.
- 37 Frances Stark reads Flannery O'Connor's *Parker's Back* while modeling for her drawing class at USC with Bobby and his childhood friend Mr. Martin.
- 38 Message from Bobby to the artist (whose nickname since infancy is Beanie): 'beans, you a n***a now so you better harden up and stop acting like a lil soft cake'

- 39 Urban dictionary definition of Spanish slang 'puta madre'. 'Putra' means 'fuck' or 'bitch', and 'madre' means 'mother'. Together they form an expletive meaning 'holy shit' or 'motherfucker'. In some regions, adding the singular article 'la' changes the meaning to a compliment.
- 40 Edith Clifford, 'Champion Sword Swallower of the World', lived 1886–1942
- 41 GEOCORP, one of the largest for-profit prison corporations gave money to the University of Florida sparking controversy about having their name on a college stadium.
- 42 Ricky Ross was a drug kingpin with connections to both the Nicaraguan Contras and the CIA, best known for his role in the evolution of cocaine into crack. Rick Ross, a former correctional facilities officer-turned-rapper, re-named himself after the legendary figure.
- 43 Three ostensible gangbangers being arrested by a LAPD officer.
- 44 Form signed by patient, Frances Stark, declining permission for USC medical students to be present while the doctor performs her routine gynecological exam.
- 45 *Cupid Making His Arch*, c. 1533–1535, Parmigianino
- 46 The bible tells of the shepherd David slaying the giant Philistine warrior Goliath. Today, 'philistine' means one who is hostile or indifferent to culture and the arts, or who has no understanding of them.
- 47 See [45]
- 48 Bobby assisting in the artist's studio.
- 49 The motto of Homeboy Industries is 'Nothing stops a bullet like a job'. Founder and director Father 'G' gave Bobby his first job as an errand boy at age 13.
- 50 Document showing technique used to 'resurrect' 2Pac for a popular annual music festival. 2Pac—deceased since '96—performed 'live' onstage in the form of a hologram.
- 51 Edith Clifford, 'Champion Sword Swallower'

- 52 Found image of childbirth showing the entire head of the infant emerging from the mother's vagina.
- 53 On September 5, 1989 president George H. W. Bush (former director of the C.I.A.) appeared on television presenting a bag of crack cocaine as a prop in a speech meant to garner support for the nation's war on drugs. The speech also can come across as an infomercial for this inexpensive form of cocaine.
- 54 Snapshot of Bobby with lil Mikey, aka Ghost, who was shot and killed at age 15 directly in front of the artist's son's Montessori school in Echo Park in 2005.
- 55 Portrait of Frances Stark by Shawn Mortensen, 1994.
- 56 *The Murder of Christ* by Wilhelm Reich, 1953.
- 57 *Magdalena*, by Gheorghe Tattarescu, 19th c.
- 58 Portrait of Bobby by the artist, 2012. The likeness to *Magdalena* [57] is purely coincidental.
- 59 Illustration by Arthur Robins taken from the 1977 book *Where Did I Come From?* written by Peter Mayle, 'The facts of life without any nonsense and with illustrations'.
- 60 1992 Portrait of Dr. Dre (née Andre Young, b. 1965) by Shawn Mortensen
- 61 Image taken from a blog poking fun at a guy who posted on the free online dating site OK Cupid.
- 62 DJ Quik, nee David Blake (b. 1970) (photo credit unverifiable)
- 63 *Christ Giving His Blessing*, Hans Memling 1478
- 64 *El Lazarillo de Tormes*, 1808–1812 by Francisco Goya. *El Lazarillo de Tormes* is the name of a Spanish picaresque novel.
- 65 *L'Origine du Monde* (The Origin of the World), 1866 Gustave Courbet
- 66 Ad for Dirty Ghetto Kids, or DGK, a clothing company my son became familiar with because of their 'I ♥ Haters!' hats.

- 67 Shawn Mortensen, several of whose iconic portraits of rap legends appear here, was a friend of the artist since high school. He took his own life 2009.
- 68 Professor Frances Stark serving as Marshall for Roski School of Art at USC's commencement ceremony.
- 69 USC mascot Tommy Trojan in victory pose.
- 70 The term 'b/w' means 'backed with' and refers to the b-side or flipside of vinyl single releases, the A-side being the projected hit.
- 71 See [70]
- 72 Photo of Bobby and the artist's son taken in her studio.
- 73 Saint Veronica ('true icon') seen in a detail from *Christ Carrying the Cross*, 1446, Biagio d'Antonio
- 74 DJ Quik headlined the 'West Coast Fest' 3/21/13 and announced he'd be leaving the music business at the end of the year.
- 75 Portrait of Biggie Smalls, aka Notorious B.I.G. (née Christopher George Latore Wallace, b. 1972) taken by Shawn Mortensen on March 8, 1997, the day before he was shot and killed in Los Angeles.
- 76 Photo of Bobby's best friend, now deceased, appearing as screensaver. 18 year old Jonathan Hurtado, aka J. Gutta, was shot four times by a rival gang member in East Los Angeles in March, 2007.
- 77 Internet meme originating from a song on Dr. Dre's 1992 album *The Chronic*, in which Snoop Dogg sings 'Bitches ain't shit but hos and tricks'.
- 78 Portrait of the artist's son by Shawn Mortensen, 2005.
- 79 Bobby and the artist's son in Hollenbeck Park, 2012
- 80 Artist's son inadvertently making a Jesus hand signal while wearing his DGK 'I ♥ Haters!' hat. The statement meant to imply that envy is a motivation factor could also be read as an attitude of love in the face of hate.
- 81 *The Making of a Fresco Showing the Building of a City*, Diego Rivera, 1931

The iconic portraits of Tupac, Ice Cube, Dr. Dre, and Biggie, as well as portraits of me and my son, were all taken by the artist Shawn Martensen, a friend since high school, who tragically took his own life with a gun in 2009. I'm continually moved by his fearlessness and his romantic idealism embodied in the work. A collection of his photographs, Shawn Martensen: Out of Mind, was published by Abrams Image in 2007 with a foreword by Glenn O'Brien and an afterword by Richard Prince. My copy bears this inscription: 'For Frances & Arlo! Oh My Beanie! We've been friends for 23 years of full on LIFE! Let's look forward to 50 wonderful years!'

A note on the music: DJ Quik is a legendary west coast artist out of Compton, California whose music career took off in 1991. The two songs sampled here are: Catch-22, from his 2005 album Trauma, and Fire and Brimstone, from his 2011 album The Book of David. Twice onstage in the last year I've seen him announce that he's retiring at the end of the year. Enormous fan that I am, I hope he changes his mind about that, yet at the same time I eagerly await the results of whatever transformation he may have underway. It doesn't seem possible to stop being an artist.

All quotes attributed to Father G are taken from Father Gregory Boyle's book, Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion, published by Free Press, a division of Simon & Schuster. Boyle, a Jesuit, is the founder of Homeboy Industries—an organization that serves high-risk, formerly gang-involved men and women with a continuum of free services and programs, and operates seven social enterprises that serve as job-training sites. He is affectionately—and ironically—referred to as Father G ('G' being slang for 'Gangster').

Jonathan Hurtado, 18, described by police as Latino and by medical examiners as black, was shot in a park at 127 South Pecan St. in Boyle Heights, and died at 7:29 p.m. March 2, 2007. Hurtado's attacker, another Latino youth who walked or bicycled up to him, said, 'Hey, homie, what's up?' then shot him four times. Jonathan, aka J Gutta was the best friend of Bobby, aka G Business.

Bobby Jesus's Alma Mater b/w Reading The Book of David and/or Paying Attention is Free, Frances Stark, 2013.

Designed by Frances Stark and Chris Svensson with the assistance of Andrew La Costa and Sydney Schrader, and the generous encouragement of Daniel Bauman and the Carnegie Museum of Art.

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Bobby
,
Jesus's
Alma
Mater

Compassion is not a relationship between the healer and the wounded. It's a covenant between equals... [it] is always, at its most authentic, about a shift from the cramped world of self-pre-occupation into a more expansive place of fellowship, of true kinship.

Father G

I'M A GUARDIAN,
I'M THE ARTISAN
I'M THE FLYEST
MC THAT YOU
EVER HEARD
ON A NORMAN
MICROPHONE,
MUTHAFUCKA
THAT'S WORD

Incapable of enjoying the moment, the male needs something to look forward to, and money provides him with an eternal, never-ending goal: Just think what you could do with 80 trillion dollars—Invest it! And in three years time you'd have 300 trillion dollars!!!

Valerie Solanas, The SCUM Manifesto

Because I actually pay close attention to the stories in West Coast rap—not just as a grab bag of transgressive tropes with diminishing shock appeal, I have no choice but to make sense of that reality in light of my own. And when a good portion of my reality borders South Central (USC), then it only follows that I would let this stuff touch me—beyond the current music industry mentality, which seems to turn the empowerment process into a crass capitalist joke.

Mother F

Christ, therefore, does not in the beginning consider himself as something special. He just is as he is. Why is not everybody else that way?

Wilhelm Reich, The Murder of Christ

1. When your parents advise you to “get an education” in order to raise your income, they tell you only half the truth. What they really mean is to get just enough education to provide manpower for your society, but not so much that you prove an embarrassment to your society. Get a high school diploma, at least. Without that, you will be occupationally dead unless your name happens to be George Bernard Shaw or Thomas Alva Edison, and you can successfully dropout in grade school. Get a college degree, if possible. With a B.A., you are on the launching pad. But now you have to start to put on the brakes. If you go for a master’s degree, make sure it is an M.B.A., and its famous law of diminishing returns begins to take effect.

Do you know, for instance, that long-haul truck drivers earn more per year than full professors? Yes, the average 1977 salary for those truckers was \$24,000. While the full professors managed to earn just \$23,030. A Ph.D. is the highest degree you can get. Except for a few specialized fields such as physics or chemistry where the degree can quickly be turned to industrial or commercial purposes, if you pursue such a degree in any other field, you will face a dim future. There are more Ph.D.s unemployed or underemployed in this country than any other part of the world.

If you become a doctor of philosophy in English or history or anthropology or political science or languages or—worst of all—in philosophy, you run the risk of becoming overeducated for our national demands. Not for our needs, mind you, but for our demands. Thousands of Ph.D.s are selling shoes, driving cars, waiting on tables, and endlessly filling out applications month after month. They may also take a job in some high school or backwater college that pays much less than the janitor earns. You can equate the level of income with the level of education only so far. Far enough, that is, to make you useful to the gross national product, but not so far that nobody can turn much of a profit on you.

According to the writer, what the society expects of education is to turn out people who:

A) will not be a disgrace to society
B) will become loyal citizens
C) can take care of themselves
D) can meet the nation’s demands as a source of manpower

The nation is only interested in people:

A) with diplomas
B) who specialize in physics and chemistry
C) who are valuable to the gross national product
D) both A and C

The writer sees education as:

A) a means of providing job security and financial security and a means of meeting a country’s demands for technical workers
B) a way to broaden one’s horizons
C) more important than finding a job
D) an opportunity that everyone should have

Which of the following is not true?

A) Bernard Shaw didn’t finish high school, nor did Edison.
B) One must think carefully before pursuing a masters degree.
C) The higher your education level, the more money you will earn.
D) If you are too well-educated, you’ll be overeducated for society’s demands.

ON THE FUTURE OF ART SCHOOL SATURDAY JANUARY 27 2007

GIN D. WONG AUDITORIUM, HARRIS HALL 101, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

A SYMPOSIUM MEANT TO OFFER ARTISTS, STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS A FORUM TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER WHAT WE WANT OUR SCHOOLS TO BE, WHAT WE WANT THEM TO DO;
HERE’S AN OPPORTUNITY TO FREELY IMAGINE WHAT SHOULD BE DONE, UNHINDERED BY ADMINISTRATIVE WORRIES ABOUT WHAT CAN’T POSSIBLY BE DONE

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USC UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



come out full-fledged gang-bangers.’ I know the rest. At some point many will wind up in *graduate school*—the California Prison system.

Jorja Leap

Literally speaking, an ‘aesthete’ is defined simply as ‘one who perceives’. Perception and its resulting understanding, or meaning-making, is the most basic, immediate and FREE activity everybody has the capacity to derive joy from. I’m talking about aesthetic experience, not consumption or getting a fix from the type of entertainment that tends to want to do the perceiving for you ahead of time.

Mother F

At a certain point I opted to climb inside and try to grasp a useful understanding of the misogyny that I had been joyously and shamelessly consuming. My son was consuming it alongside me and consequently I was continually struggling to answer precisely why I allowed so many appropriateness boundaries to be crossed. The recurring rationale was that my son was fundamentally an aesthete by nature (like myself) and, well, I never went around saying it but there was no denying that I believed on some level that an aesthete (and/or potential artist) is some kind of supra-moral being... in the beyond good and evil sense, exempt, somehow, from society’s definition of failure. This was my faith.

Mother F

Twenty years of this work has taught me that God has

greater comfort with inverting categories than I do. What is success and what is failure? What is good and what is bad? Setback or progress? Great stock these days [...] is placed in evidence-based outcomes. People, funders in particular, want to know if what you do ‘works.’ Are you, in the end, successful? Naturally, I find myself heartened by Mother Teresa’s take: ‘We are not called to be successful but faithful.’ This distinction is helpful. [...] Salivating for success keeps you from being faithful, keeps you from truly seeing whoever’s sitting in front of you.

Father G

NOW GIVE ME
THE MIC AND
LET ME BE
HEARD ‘CAUSE
I’LL BE QUIT-
TIN’ SHORT-
LY I AM THE
SHEEP-HERD

She would talk to me about [...] deals she had known, about graft paid to officials—rookie cops and shyster lawyers right on up into the top levels of police and politics. She knew from personal experience how crime existed only to the degree that the law cooperated with it. She showed me how, in the country’s entire social, political and economic structure, the criminal, the law, and the politicians were actually inseparable partners.

Malcolm X, The Autobiography of Malcolm X

Man got caught s o m e h o w long ago and he continues to tie the knot of this bondage, all the while he moans about his plight and dreams of the coming of the Messiah.

Wilhelm Reich, The Murder of Christ

