



- 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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'. 'Put'a 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, 19<sup>th</sup> 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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B/W



Admit something: Everyone you see, you say to them, ‘Love me.’ Of course you do not do this out loud; otherwise, someone would call the cops. Still though, think about this, this great pull in us to connect. Why not become the one who lives with a full moon in each eye, that is always saying—with that sweet moon language—what every other eye in this world is dying to hear. *Hafez (via Father G.)*

In his General and Natural History of the Indies (1535), the first account of Spain’s foray into the Americas, he tried to describe bouncing, a term not then in the Spanish language: ‘These balls jump much more than

our hollow balls—by far—because even if they are only let slip from the hand to the ground, they rise much further than they started, and they make a jump, and then another and another, and many more, decreasing in height by itself, like hollow balls, but more so.’ Indians made the strange, springy material of the balls, he wrote by combining ‘tree roots and herbs and juices and a combination of things.... [A]fter [the mixture] is dried, it becomes rather spongy, not because it has holes or voids like a sponge, but because it becomes lighter, as if it were flabby and rather heavy.’ Wait a minute, one wants to say: how could something ‘become lighter’ yet

be ‘rather heavy’? Navagero, d’Anghiera, and Ovidio had a right to be confounded: they were encountering a novel form of matter. The balls were made of rubber. *Charles C. Mann*, 1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created

You have to listen to *The Book of David* a few times to hear everything that’s going on. There’s a lot of nuances in this album. Check it out on vinyl. There’s a lot of movement with the wow and flutter. But I don’t know if people are really into that anymore, you know, like art for art’s sake? They don’t get it. Like I say, my talents are being wasted on hip-hop right now. There are other places where I can be more prominent. *DJ Quik*

Some company recently was interested in buying my ‘aura.’ They didn’t want my product. They kept saying, ‘we want your aura.’ I never figured out what they wanted. But they were willing to pay a lot for it. So then I thought that if somebody was willing to pay that much for my it, I should try to figure out what it is. *Andy Warhol*

A tireless advocate for children and youth in the system had told me ‘they come into the [LA County Department of Probation] camps maybe slightly involved with gangs and 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*

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? Set-back 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.*

He swore it all on his conscience though I think that conscience in businessmen is a bit like virginity in whores—they sell it when they haven’t got it any more. Hardly anybody in business has a conscience, because they’ve heard it’s likely to get in their way, so they leave it behind with

their umbilical cords when they’re born. *Francisco de Quevedo*, The Swindler

My pride as a man dissolved and my whole fragile moral structure seemed to collapse, completely shattered. That is why I started to write. To save myself. I realized that no one could save me but myself. The prison authorities were both uninterested and unable to help me. I had to seek out the truth and unravel the snarled web of my motivations. *Eldridge Cleaver*, Soul on Ice

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*

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

In Africa they say ‘a person becomes a person through other people.’ There can be no doubt that the homies have returned me to myself. I’ve learned, with their patient guidance, to worship Christ as He lives in them. *Father G*

Perhaps if we can break Jesus out of religion, free him from creeds, doctrines and dogmas, we can once again hear his invitation to enter the God experience known in the fullness of life. That is the Jesus I seek. He neither was nor is a miracle worker. He did not walk on water, heal the sick, or raise the dead. Rather, in

his radical humanity, he lived out the meaning of God and caused those who glimpsed his life or felt his power to exclaim, ‘God was in Christ,’ and thus God, the gospel writers assert, can also be in you and in me. *John Shelby Spong*, Jesus for the Non-Religious

The tyranny of success often can’t be bothered with complexity. The tote board matters little when held up alongside [R.I.P.]’s intricate, tragic struggle to figure out who he was in the world... Success and failure ultimately have little to do with living the gospel. [...] The American

poet Jack Gilbert writes, ‘The pregnant heart is driven to hopes that are the wrong size for this world.’ The strategy and stance of Jesus was consistent in that it was always out of step with the world. Jesus defied all the categories upon which the world insisted: good-evil, success-failure, pure-impure. Surely, He was an equal-opportunity ‘piss-off-er’ in this regard. *Father G*

The real source of trouble is the bourgeois claim to be the ‘Party of Order’ in modern politics and culture. The immense amounts of money and energy put into building, and the self-consciously monumental character of so much of this building, testify to the sincerity and seriousness of

this claim. And yet, the truth of the matter, as Marx sees, is that everything that bourgeois society builds, is built to be torn down. ‘All that is solid’—from the clothes on our backs to the looms and mills that weave them, to the men and women who work the machines, to the houses and neighborhoods the workers live in, to the firms and corporations that exploit the workers, to the towns and cities and whole regions and even nations that embrace them all—all these are made to be broken tomorrow, smashed or shredded or pulverized or dissolved, so they can be recycled or replaced next week, and the whole process can go on again and again, hopefully forever, in ever more profitable forms. *Marshall Berman*, All That is Solid Melts Into Air (1982)

