

Biography

Pakks, né John Howard, was raised by architectural illustrator Dick Howard and Pat Howard, an abstract artist shown by Leo Castelli's co-director, Ivan Karp. Surrounded by modern and abstract art as well as architectural drawings his entire childhood, PAKKS was instructed from a young age in drawing, painting, and sculpture. Major childhood influences include growing up the youngest of seven siblings, the loss of three siblings, attending his mother's art exhibitions, and trips across the American West, particularly Native American Indian ruins, Spanish missions, the Grand Canyon, the Devil's Tower, and Arcosanti. As an adult he has been shaped by he and his wife's role reversal and raising his four daughters as a stay-at-home Dad, as well as the many places he has called home: Toledo, Kansas City, Dallas, Toronto, and Paris. Craft influences include Nevelson, Rothko, Landfield, Christensen, Lipsky, Marden, and Zox, as well as independent film. A graduate of Penn State, he has received instruction at the Toledo Museum of Art Design School and the Art Student's League of New York with atelier instruction under Charles Hinman and Frank O'Cain. Practicing commercial art at his father's firm taught him perspective drawing as well as 3d modeling/computer animation.

Pakks's art is intended as a study of life. Conceptual art held prisoner by random events becomes real in the freeze frame of imagery. The finished piece is but an aesthetic embellishment, a decoration. The artistic process is a study into what life is and can be. The actual art is in the concept, process, and the attempt to touch the viewer through the imagination. But it's true democracy as art, i.e. the moment it is set free, is when it is viewed. It can never be unseen. So while one might possess the physical manifestation of the work, all who have seen it "own" it.

Pakks films with high definition video followed by playback utilizing forced video decoder failure. Still images capture this failure to become the building blocks for further photomanipulation. Final output is usually Giclée prints upon canvas or color photographic prints mounted onto aluminum plates.

Pakks hopes to continue his own development as well as offer others a new way of seeing the world.