

IAN C. HESS

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Statement:

Ian C. Hess explores the beauty of brokenness expressed through the shattered, graceful, and failed myths of yesterday. While coinciding with the Japanese Philosophies of Wabi Sabi (acceptance of transience and imperfection) and Kintsugi (treats breakage as beauty to be emphasized), he aims to reinvent aspects of these categories into present tense embodied forms, adorned in the textures and idioms of our time. The central theme of portraiture expressed through the means of broken Greco - Roman busts serve as the foundational constant amongst the myriad of techniques, and varied perspectives of the human ideal. The pieces work to synthesize a plurality of elements comprised of the past and present with universally recognized imagery within each painting as a specific locality that brings with it a generative power. All myth was once personal experience.

Education:

2010 - 2014 Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

Painting and Printmaking Department

Bachelor of Fine Arts completed May 9th, 2014

Major: Painting & Printmaking

2013 VCU Summer Study Abroad: Peru

Experience:

2024 – Present: Head of Little Giant Society 501(c)(3) Non-Profit

2022 – Present: Founder of SUPPLY (Art Supply Store)

320 West Broad St. Richmond, VA, 23220

2015 – Present Creative Director at Endeavor Studios

316 Brook Road / 320 W. Broad St. Richmond, VA 23220

2017 Richmond Street Arts Festival Muralist

The Diamond 3001 N Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23230

2017 – 2018 Mural Assistant to Mickael Broth “The Night Owl”

2013 Project Assistant / Volunteer

1708 Gallery

Richmond, VA Inlight Festival 2013

2013 Studio Intern

J. Ferguson Gallery, Richmond, VA

2013 Art Handler / Publicist

glave' kocen Gallery

Exhibitions:

2025 Richmond, Virginia “This Must Be the Place” with Foyer Gallery

2025 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania “13 Year Anniversary Show” with Arch Enemy Arts

2025 WOW X WOW Gallery “Follow the Universe”

2025 Portland, Oregon “Memento Mori: A beautiful Mutants Show” with Brassworks Gallery

2024 Miami, Florida “AQUA Miami Art Fare”

2024 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania “Spectrum V” with Arch Enemy Arts

2024 Rome, Italy “Anima Mundi” with ITSLIQUID

2024 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania “Artist Spotlight 2024” with Arch Enemy Arts

2024 Richmond “River City Rails” with Gallery 5

Curated by Noah Scalin

2024 Zaandam “Street Art Weekender”

2023 Rome Artist Residency, Rome, Italy, “Expo”

2021 Black Iris, Richmond, VA, “LITTLE GIANTS” Solo Show

2019 Facebook Campus in Menlo Park, California, “Business World”

2019 Capital One Headquarters, Richmond, VA, “Through the Looking Lense”

Collaboration installation with Eli McMullen, Curator: Francis Thompson

2018 Shockoe Artspace, Richmond, VA, "Prometheus Rising"

Debut Solo Show, Curator: Ryan Lauterio

2018 The Gallery at UNOS, Richmond, VA, "Expressions of Impulse"

Group Show, Gianna Paniagua, curator.

2017 Artspace Gallery, Richmond, VA, "ThinkSmall 9"

Curator: Santa de Haven

2017 U.R. Downtown Gallery, Richmond, VA, "RVA Cures: Conquering Childhood Cancer"

Group Show, Connors Heroes, Organization.

2017 ArtSpace, Richmond, VA, "Radius 250",

Group Show, Francis Thompson, curator.

2014 The Fine Arts Building, Virginia Commonwealth University,

Richmond, VA, "FAB Gallery Senior Show," the Fountainhead

Fellows, Jaydan Moore, Olivia Valentine, Courtney McClellan, and

Will Schneider-White curated and hosted by Debbie Quick.

2014 The Fine Arts Building, Virginia Commonwealth University,

Richmond, VA, "Integration," 3 floor, mega-show featuring all

graduating seniors for a first-time-ever integration of all

departments showing work simultaneously.

2013 The Fishbowl Gallery, Virginia Commonwealth University,

Richmond, VA, "Interaction 44", Reni Gower and Paloma Barhaugh-Bordas,

jurors.

2013 Fountainside Properties, Richmond, VA, "Pixy Sick",

Collaborative Group Show, Ron Johnson, curator.

2013 The Camel, Richmond, VA, "Still in School"

Jillian DiMarco, curator.

2013 Plant Zero, Richmond, VA, "Cherry-Aide Special", Student Collaborative

Show, Ron Johnson, curator.

Endeavor RVA: Studio Gallery

Upon the founding of Endeavor RVA, the demands of such an undertaking were not clear. Throughout the years, it was required to design, curate, collaborate on, and critique show ideas while executing them as well as my own personal work. Flyers were designed, promotions were crafted, hundreds of artists were wrangled, thousands of art pieces were properly handled / displayed, networks were forged, and a community was fostered - unlike any I've ever seen. Being the Creative Director of Endeavor laid the demands square on my shoulders, and I continue today developing a grander extension of this to be a permanent part of the Richmond Creative Community. 320 W. Broad currently serves as the foundation for what will be a largescale building project, and the future of Endeavor RVA.

While the future is rich in potential, my experience at the helm serves as a bedrock towards what's to come. The previous shows at Endeavor are as follows:

Grand Opening: Aug. 7th 2015

Paintings by: Ian C. Hess, Eli McMullen, Christina Wing Chow

Open Studio: Oct. 2nd 2015

Paintings and Drawings by: Saxton Moore (Pixel Pirate), Ian C. Hess, Eli McMullen, Christina Wing Chow

(Collaborative Work, Raffle, Live Painting)

Open Studio: Nov. 6th 2015

Paintings by: Paul Lorenzo, Ian C. Hess, Eli McMullen, Christina Wing Chow

(Music ft. HYER)

Open Studio: Dec. 4th 2015

Paintings and Drawings by: Alexander Wuwei, James McPherson, Katrina Kim, Ian C. Hess, Eli McMullen, Christina Wing Chow

(Music ft. Lobo Marino)

Open Studio: Feb. 5th 2016

Nate Giordano, Michaela Kane, Ian C. Hess, Eli McMullen, Christina Wing Chow

(Music ft. Silent Psychic, Erotic Bombs, Andrew Rohlk)

Hugs & Kisses – Clown Kisses Press Showcase: March 4th 2016

Prints, Paintings, and Drawings by: James McPherson, Rellie Brewer, Harrison Stewart
(Music ft. SPA DRAMA)

Taking Hold: Apr. 1st 2016

Prints, Paintings, and Drawings by: Alex Beck, Hannah Weaver, Victoria Borges, Shawn Why, Sishir Bommokanti, Ian C. Hess, Eli McMullen, Christina Wing Chow
(Music ft. California Death, Moonlight Beach Club, Solar Tantrums)

Lotus: April 23rd

Performance by: Lotus Mary Alexandra, Laura Coates, Ashley Paige, Kelly Ludwig, Ian C. Hess, Alexander WuWei, Will E. Nelson (Ft. MVMNT)

Dialogue Issue No. 2 Release: May 6th 2016

Murals by: Ian C. Hess, Eli McMullen, Christina Wing Chow
Join or Die Knives
No Stone Collective
(Music ft. OZARK)

Secret Parade Show: May 2nd 2016

(Music ft. Lobo Marino)

Reflections: June 3rd 2016

Ian C. Hess, Eli McMullen, Christina Wing Chow, Alexander WuWei
(First Friday's interactive social media documentary)

Chino Amobi – NON 2015 – 2016: July 1st 2016

Open Critiques began July 8th 2016

For those seeking in depth, useful critique. This is also an opportunity for artists to connect, share their craft, collaborate, and grow

The Green Room: July 14th 2016

Paintings by: Ian C. Hess, Eli McMullen, Christina Wing Chow, Alex Beck
Spoken Word by: Alexander WuWei, Anthony Bordeau, Elissa Conner, Rahkeem "Sub-V"
Performance by: Lotus Mary Alexandra, Zoe Kinney, Ian C. Hess
Music by: Peter Davis, Alex Beck, Amanda Edlow, Eric DeTorres "ERICDT", Ashley Coleman & Kelly Ludwig, Jameson Price "Reverend Harp"
Wellness Presentation by: Courtney Cothran

Endeavor 1-Year Anniversary: Aug. 5th 2016

Ian C. Hess, Eli McMullen, Christina Wing Chow, Alexander WuWei, Alex Beck
(Music ft. Cole Sullivan, Lobo Marino, Noved Rammah, Crittercrump Suckapuss)

PUT THIS ON! T-Shirt Design Exhibition: Sept. 2nd 2016

Shirt Designs by: Erek Jones, Infinity Life, CutCut, Dreamers Clothing, Matt Marinello, Jamie Douglas, Crud City, Also Known As, Ian C. Hess, Eli McMullen, Christina Wing Chow, Alexander WuWei, Alex Beck
(Music ft. OZARK, Graymatter, Foreground & Neighborhood, Sam Brazil)
(Food ft. Arroz RVA)

Wet Walls: Oct 7th 2016

Collaborative Mural by: Ian C. Hess, Eli McMullen, Christina Wing Chow, Alex Beck
(Music ft. Graymatter, Unlucky Bastards, Lopside, Fly Anakin, Big Kahuna OG, Rawn The Almagest, Koncept Jackson, The Lone Crow)

Head Count: Nov. 4th 2016

Paintings by: Shawn Why, Shawn Saharko, Giampollo Coppini, Ali Walters, Michael Young, Corey Hall, Matthew Rea, Ian C. Hess, Eli McMullen, Christina Wing Chow, Alex Beck
(Music ft. Jeremy Neighbors, Vanilla Summit)

Artwork by: Alex Beck, Brandon Robertson, Camille McMullen, Christina Wing Chow, Chris Visions, Cosima Storz, Corey Hall, Eli McMullen, Ian C. Hess, Melissa Harris, Morgan Kendrick Sawyer, Sarah Apple, Thomas Brownell, Ynes Bouck

Music ft. Avillon Shore / Hip-Hop Student Collective

Charities: Red Cross Richmond, The Sweeter Man Society

Magazine: Ink Magazine

BLUSH Pt.2 - A Continual Effort: Dec. 8th 2016

Artwork by: Alex Beck, Brandon Robertson, Camille McMullen, Christina Wing Chow, Chris Visions, Cosima Storz, Corey Hall, Eli McMullen, Ian C. Hess, Melissa Harris, Morgan Kendrick Sawyer, Sarah Apple, Thomas Brownell, Ynes Bouck

Music ft. Lobo Marino, Teach Me Equals, Wester Green, Nevin Kight

Live Performance by: Lotus Mary Alexandra and Chris Pittman

Taking Refuge - Younan Ghebrial: Feb 3rd 2017

Mural by: The Endeavor Crew

Music by: The Mark of Buddha

The Endeavor Four: Mar 3rd 2017

Ian C. Hess, Eli McMullen, Christina Wing Chow, and Alex Beck

Game On: Apr 7th 2017

Art By Alfred, Alex Beck, Christina Wing Chow, Marc Craven, Jamie Douglas, Duane Doku, James Hebert, Ian C. Hess, Corey Hall, Matt Marinello, Eli McMullen, Marly McFly, James McPherson, Will Jones, Sofia Roman, Morgan Kendrick Sawyer, Harrison Stewart, Tariye, Cameron Weston, and Shawn Why.

Music By Afrocat, Rashawn, Soyomakei and Yogamuffin.

PUT THIS ON! T-Shirt Design Exhibition: May 5th 2017

Art by AKA, Sarah Apple Alex Beck Bex Ynes Bouck, Crud City, Younan Ghebriel, Ian C. Hess, Peculiar Hi, Ere Jones, Earl Mack, Matt Marinello, Sophie McGale, Camille McMullen, Travis Robertson, Shawn Saharko, Morgan Sawyer, SQDRN, Virtuoso Brand, Christina Wing Chow.

Richmond Artists Showcase: June 2nd 2017

A showcase of the diversity of recent works by artists local to Richmond.

Art by Ynes Bouck, Skane Design, Emmett Fleming, Eddy Gonzo, Emily Herr, Ian C. Hess, Kasha Killingsworth, Matt Marinello, Eli McMullen and Christina Chow

WET WALLS 2017: Jul 7th 2017

Collaborative mural with Mickael Broth, Emily Herr, Eddy Gonzo, Eli McMullen, Ian C. Hess and Wingchow.

Music by Anthony Brazeau, Zark and Lopside

Endeavor: 2 Year Anniversary: Sep 1st 2017

Art by Chad Hilton, Emily Herr, Ere Jones, Mickael Broth, Moonie Co., Prentice Carroll, Sarah Apple, Shawn Saharko, Ryan Lauterio, Ynes Bouck, Younan Ghebrial, Eli McMullen, Ian C. Hess, and Christina Wing Chow

Music by THIVA and Vanilla Summit

Endeavor & Garden Grove: Beer Release: Oct 8th 2017

Endeavor: LTD. - A Print Based Exhibition Feb 2nd 2018

Art by Cam Johnson, Cam McMullen, Crud City, Derek Setzer, Eli McMullen, Ere Jones, Happy Clay, Harrison Stewart, Humble, Ian C. Hess, James McPherson, Jamie Douglas, Nils Westergard, Peculiar Hi, Prentice Carroll, and Wingchow.

Music by Anthony Brazeau, Jeremy Neighbors, Shiv, and The Mark of Buddha

Critique Night: Feb 19th 2018

For those seeking in depth, useful critique. This is also an opportunity for artists to connect, share their craft, collaborate, and grow

Body Language - A Form and Figure Exhibition: Apr 6th 2018

Art by Daniel Robbins, Derek Setzer, Eli McMullen, Ian C. Hess, Jason Bennett, Josh George, Matt McMullen, Megan Phillips, Miguel Fisher, Miles Hall, and Shawn Yu

Drip Drop Beer Release - Three Notch'd May 10th 2018

Meet The Artists of the Month: May 30th 2018

Art by Crud City & Peculiar Hi

Wet Walls 2018: June 1st 2018

Collaborative mural by Cam McMullen, Crud City, Chloe Yeager, Eli McMullen, Erek Jones, Ian C. Hess, Jamie Douglass, Jered Fykes, Junious, Louis Ackerman, Meme, and Visibly Hidden.

Music by Mark of Buddha, Vanilla Summit and Sam Sulkin

PUT THIS ON! T-Shirt Design Exhibiton: August 3rd 2018

Art by CRUD CITY, Cam McMullen, Junious, Charli Curtis, Jamie Douglas, Alex Tucker, Ian C. Hess, Peculiar Hi, Earl Mack, South Burton, Erek Jones, Headass Co., Chum Media, and Eli McMullen.

Music by Deer Eat Birds and Jeremy Neighbors

3 Year Anniversary: Nov. 2nd 2018

Art by Andre Shank, Cam McMullen, Casey Criddle, Crud City, Eli McMullen, Happy Clay, Ian C. Hess, Jered Fykes, Matt Lively, Nick Fagan, Nils Westergaard, Prentice Carroll, Rozalia Janicki, Ryan Lauterio, and Wing Chow.

Music by Grumpy Snorlax, The Mark of Buddha, Jeremy Neighbors, and Hothouse Hell Jazz Ensemble.

LTD.: February 2nd 2019

Art by Suzanne K. Arnold, Erek Jones, Tanner Ashton, Kate Baselj, Chase Beasley, Diana V. Becerra, Casey Criddle, Jamie Douglas, Alice Anne Ellis, Diana Frostick, Madison Hall, Ian C. Hess, Brooke Inman, Jake Lahah, Jonathan Lee, Kira Ratliff, Luis Navas-Reyes, Ramons Martinez, Ian Mondragon, Joanna Pottle, Cosima Storz, Sophie Treppendahl, Abigail Wilson, and Jeannie Wermuth.

Music by Alice Blue, The Mark of Buddha, Tanner White, and Jeremy Neighbors.

Headcount: April 4th 2019

Art by Scott Hutchison, Nils Westergaard, Nick Zimbardo, Nate Szarmach, Miguel Carter-Fisher, Jacob Daniel Green, Ian C. Hess, Eli McMullen, Agnes Grochulska, and Aaron Pavelis.

Music by Lobo Marino and Treya Lam.

PUT THIS ON! May 3rd, 2019

Clothing Design by Brighter Dayz, Katie Bernard, Chilaylay, Wing Chow, Crud City, Constance Shumaker, Rick Delano, Fresh Prints of Belaire, Jamie Douglas, Rose Ghoulie, Gavin Harrison, Chad Hilton, HORA, Erik Jones, Junious, Earl Mack, Cam McMullen, Eli McMullen, Ian Mondragon, NERVES, One Trick Pony, The Ink Well, Soojie, and Alexa Taveras.

Music by Autark and Minimum Balance.

BON VOYAGE: June 7th 2019

Art by Alex Beck, Crud City, Mickael Broth, Jered Fykes, Eddy Gonzo, Emill Herr, Ian C. Hess, Chad Hilton, Erik Jones, Ryan Lauterio, Jason Lefton, Matt Lively, Eli McMullen, Alexander Whiteway, Wing Chow, Saxton Moore, Juan Steck, Mac Wood, Vincent Cannizzaro, High Club Productions, Sam Sulkin, and Ashley Moore.

Music by Shiv Beats, Bryan Nguyen, and Rasneek.

UNCOMMON GROUND: July 7th 2019

Art by Steven Bober, Erik Jones, Chase Beasley, Tyler Thomas, John DiJulio, Derek Setzer, Emily Herr, James McPherson, Mickael Broth, Andre Shank, Matt Lively, Saxton Moore, Wing Chow, Ian C. Hess, Cam McMullen, Eli McMullen, Chad Hilton, Andrew Indelicato, Prentice Carroll, Silly Genius, Travis Robertson, Max Hubenthal, Miguel Carter-Fisher, Julie Elkins, Nate Compton, Madeline Pericak, Agnes Grochulska, Diego Sanchez, Jacob Daniel Green, and Emily Yeatts

The Endeavor Order: Sept 6th 2019

Art by Jason Bennett, Sishir Bommakanti, Jessica Camilli, Gwooki, Ian C. Hess, Erik Jones, Kevin Sabo, Teresa Sharpe, Ben White, Charles Berger, Mickael Broth, Sabrina, Elliotte, Todd Hale, Chad Hilton, Ian Mondragon, Noah Scalin, Jesse Smith, and Michael Young.

Awards and Distinctions:

2023 Scholarship Award for Rome Artist Residences May 2023

Rome, Italy

2021 UMFS / CFHC Art Grant

3900 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA

2017 Best in Show Winner

1708 Gallery Richmond, VA INLIGHT Festival 2017, December 1st.

2014 Accepted into Merit Studio

Virginia Commonwealth University Painting and Printmaking Department

2013 Independent Research

Accepted into the Study Abroad Program for Peru.

Bibliography:

2025 RVAMag "Ian C. Hess on Painting Myths..."

2024 Richmond Times Dispatch "Richmond artist proposes..."

2021 Shockoe Artspeak, "101. Rethink Suffering and Death"

2021 Shockoe Artspeak, "100. Rethink: The Suffering Artist"

2021 Mending Walls: The Documentary

2020 Mending Walls at VMHC, "Spirit of Sankofa"

2020 The Art Scene PBS, "Endeavor Studios: Live, Work, Play... Art"

2020 Shockoe Artspeak, "040 What Did You Mean By That? With Ian C. Hess"

2019 Shockoe Artspeak, "017. The Ecosystem of Art and Design, Part 3: People"

2018 Commonwealth Times, "Endeavor Art Studio Provides an All-Inclusive Creative Space,"
by Zack Joachim

2018 Destructive Distillation, "Destructive Distillation" by Matt Lively

2018 Murals of Richmond, "Murals of Richmond" by Mickael Broth

2018 RVAMag, "Prometheus Rising at Shockoe Artspace" by Brianna Scott, September 18th

2018 Community Idea Stations, "Prometheus Rising" September 7th

2017 Style Weekly, "Asylum Art" by Brent Baldwin, July 3rd

2016 RVAMag, "Endeavor RVA Celebrates One Year" by Brad Kushner, August 5th

2016 RVAMag, "Endeavor RVA Artists Collaborate on Wet Walls" by Amy David, October 24th

2014 Interaction 44 published by Blurb for the Department of Painting and Printmaking, VCU

2013 Richmond Times Dispatch, "Entertainment & Life" by Tammie Smith, September 11th

2013 Boomer Magazine, "The Arts" Section June / July