

Exhibitions

- 2018 December ***“Scientists as Artists Reprise,”*** Juried Group Exhibition, Falk Gallery, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- October ***“Scientists as Artists,”*** Juried Group Exhibition, Science 2018 - University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2010 December ***“Fein Art Gallery Annual Holiday Show,”*** Juried Group Exhibition, Fein Art Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA
- June ***“AAP @ the Art Institute,”*** Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, Group Exhibition, Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2009 February ***“The Dexterity of Form,”*** Juried Group Exhibition, Agora Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008 November ***“2008 Hoyt Artists Association Holiday Show,”*** Group Exhibition, Hoyt Institute of Fine Arts, New Castle, PA
- October ***“2008 Hoyt Mid-Atlantic Juried Art Exhibition,”*** Juried Group Exhibition, Hoyt Institute of Fine Arts, New Castle, PA
- April ***“2008 Butler County Community College Student Show,”*** Juried Group Exhibition, Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery, Butler County Community College, Butler, PA
- 2007 October ***“Recent Works by Michael James Ward,”*** Solo Exhibition, Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery, Butler County Community College, Butler, PA
- “2007 Hoyt Mid-Atlantic Juried Art Exhibition”*** Juried Group Exhibition, Hoyt Institute of Fine Arts, New Castle, PA
- April ***“2007 Butler County Community College Student Show,”*** Juried Group Exhibition, Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery, Butler County Community College, Butler, PA
- 2006 April ***“2006 Butler County Community College Student Show”*** Juried Group Exhibition, Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery, Butler County Community College, Butler, PA
- 2005 April ***“2005 Butler County Community College Student Show,”*** Juried Group Exhibition, Mary Hulton Phillips Gallery, Butler County Community College, Butler, PA

Awards

2008 Hoyt Mid-Atlantic Juried Art Exhibition – Merit Award

Related Professional Affiliations

Hoyt Artists Association, Hoyt Institute of Fine Arts, New Castle, PA, Member 2008-2012
Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, Member 2008-2015

Michael James Ward - Artist Statement

My art is very instinctual and very primal, so my hope for someone seeing it for the first time is that it provides a sense of déjà vu. The power and emotion exhibited in my work are mirrors to reflect the feelings and emotions of the viewer. What someone takes from a piece is more a result of his or her own personal experiences than from the work itself. The work is merely a conduit that allows them to see it.

As opposed to being “art strictly for the sake of art,” my work is dominated by themes of sex, death, and spirituality. All three themes span the range of archetypal human needs, fears, and desires, and provide the viewer with an instant connection on the most basic emotional level. Utilizing these themes, I look at each piece like a small film instead of a painting. I want my work to be experienced by the viewer, and not just viewed. Plus, from a storytelling standpoint, I have the opportunity to weave together a multitude of visual elements to elicit a gut response.

Each of my paintings tells a story of its own, and is filled with drama, conflict, humor, tragedy, and various characters from deep in the recesses of my psyche. I personally experience all of these story elements and characters during the creation of a piece, which makes every painting I create that much more personal to me. In some paintings, there is one standout character, yet others feature ensemble casts. While the characters sometimes make cameo appearances in other paintings, they are all individuals with their own tales and histories, and at the same time are each a facet of my personality.