

Joseph Alef

Joseph Alef creates abstract paintings that burst with energy. Their rhythmic compositions are filled with an expressive vocabulary of layered marks. “I used to put faces in my art, and now it is all color and shapes,” the artist notes. “It is easier to get all of the emotions out without the people.” This is the largest painting Alef has made to date in his twenty-two years as a Creative Growth artist.

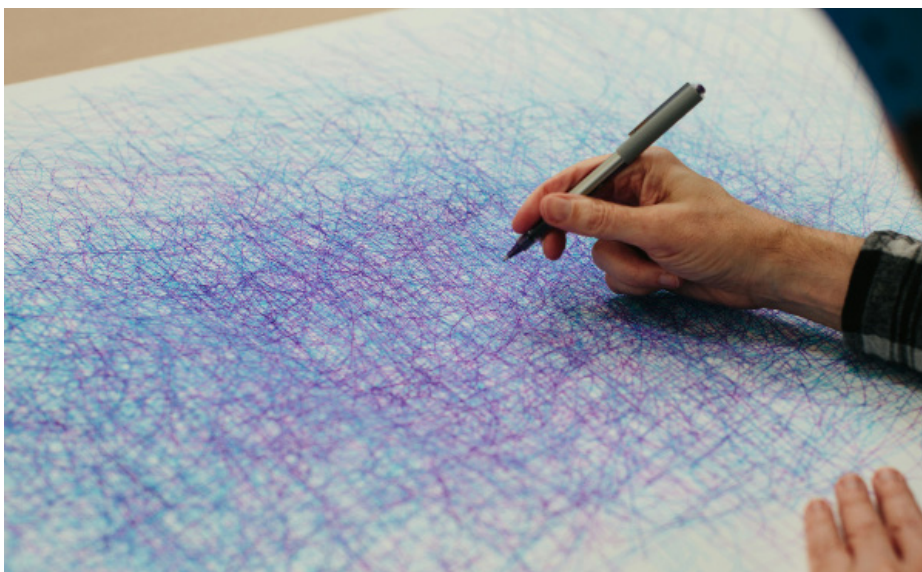
Camille Holvoet

Camille Holvoet creates psychologically rich drawings that reflect her memories, fascinations, and daily life, exploring subjects ranging from the prescribed medicine she takes to her disorienting move to a new home. “I feel good talking about the past,” Holvoet has said. “It lets something out.” She worked at Creative Growth from 1988 to 2001, and then transferred to Creativity Explored, a related studio in San Francisco.

Dan Miller

Dan Miller works ambidextrously, using both hands to create dense clouds of marks characterized by repetition and color. Words, numbers, and punctuation populate the compositions, along with building materials and electrical objects.

The clusters of drawn or typed words skate fluidly



between elements to see and elements to read. Miller has been a Creative Growth artist since 1992.

Photo courtesy Creative Growth

John Martin

John Martin was born on a farm in Mississippi, where he first encountered the tools, tractors, and animals that appear in his work. Pictured alongside trucks, motorcycles, and cell phones, these elements marry his childhood memories with his present life in Oakland. The figures in his drawings are often friends or family members,



Photo courtesy Creative Growth

and occasionally himself, such as the man seen sitting on the couch watching television.

Susan Janow

In Susan Janow's first video, the artist silently stares at the camera while a recording of her reading a list of questions plays. Janow's queries range from standard interview prompts like "Where do you see yourself in ten years?" to more personal reflections such as "Who do you miss?" Left unanswered, her questions compel the viewer to consider what their own responses would be. Janow has been associated with Creative Growth since 2003.

Judith Scott

Judith Scott created sculptures by methodically wrapping twine, string, fabric, and other fibers around found objects until they became almost hidden. Here she attached a bicycle wheel and woven basket to the seat of a child's chair, binding them together in a dense array of textures, colors, and tensions. Scott joined Creative Growth when she was forty-three years old and created art there for eighteen years.

Ron Veasey

Ron Veasey's brilliantly colored portraits are inspired by a wide range of source material, including fashion magazines, photography books, and National Geographic. Veasey isolates figures on the page, outlining them in black marker and filling the flattened forms with bold colors and patterns. By capturing subtle details, direct gazes, and



Photo courtesy Creative Growth

strong poses, Veasey highlights confident and intense personas. He has honed his approach over more than forty years at Creative Growth.

Dwight Mackintosh

Dwight Mackintosh was seventy-two years old when he began working at Creative Growth in 1979. Over his twenty years at the organization, he developed a singular style of looped, radiating figures that blur the boundaries between internal and external body structures, inspired in part by his experiences with X-rays and a tonsillectomy at age twelve. Other subjects include buses, musical instruments, self-portraits, and an invented text that he transformed into flowing graphic imagery.

Donald Mitchell

Donald Mitchell's drawings and sculptures explore human figures, which he portrays as block-like bodies in dense crowds. His compositions often feature smears of color, while others are rendered in black and white, with a starkness that suggests anonymity and an air of loneliness.



Photo courtesy Creative Growth

Mitchell has reflected: “All people are me.” He has been a Creative Growth artist since 1986.

Alice Wong

For the past decade, Alice Wong has used vintage photographic portraits donated to Creative Growth as the foundation for her paintings. She obscures the forms and faces with acrylic markers and enamel to reimagine them in bright, artificial colors. In revitalizing decades-old imagery of anonymous people,



Photo courtesy Creative Growth

she renews their relevance in ways that are both disorienting and humorous. Wong has worked at Creative Growth since 2003.

William Scott

William Scott's portraits feature personal heroes, celebrities, politicians, and church and family members whom he often depicts as alternate or future versions of themselves. Scott also re-creates the San Francisco cityscape in drawings and paintings that are meticulous and maplike, yet still engage in fantasy, for instance through characters



like Godzilla or UFOs boarded by citizens of “Praise Frisco,” Scott’s name for his hopeful, gospel-filled vision of a future San Francisco.

Photo courtesy Creative Growth