Jeff Spicer

Jeff Spicer is a professional figurative and portrait artist. Trained as a medical illustrator during his years of service in the US Air Force, Jeff also earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting, drawing and sculpture later in life. Jeff is focused on creating realistic figurative-based works that speak to him on a personal level and express a connection to universal spirituality. He carefully renders his subjects with mixed media materials such as pastels and oils.

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“I've got to have some sort of connection to the human condition, the human spirit. Being a figurative artist, being a portrait artist, I never tire of painting the figure, of finding inspiration in all of the different emotional realms and states that we can be in, all the great things that we can do for humanity, and the horrible things that we can do to each other.

When I was fresh out of high school, I went into the Air Force and wound up in Wilford Hall Medical Center as a medical illustrator; learning all of the anatomy and how we're put together and where the bones and stuff join and the ligaments and the tendons and how they wrap around the arm.

And coming from a spiritual background, it was even more so like this divine design, that this creature that-- how we can walk up and move and do all the things we do, and it's all those muscles and tendons. It was fascinating. The more I learn about science, the more I learn about the natural world, the more it increases my faith. It has caused me to look at a much bigger universe and a lot of different types of religion and types of spirituality and types of thought in mythology.

Art can be an inclusive thing. It is a safe place for all cultures to come and experience and not have to worry about the different baggage that they have societal wise. It's like language barriers disappear. Political barriers disappear. Art can be very political, but it can also just be a place where we can all have a conversation.

Being an artist is one of the best things you'll ever do and one of the most terrifying things you'll ever do. You're going to make the art. Come hell or high water, you're going to make the art. But I do know it is an impulse that is unquenchable. You have to do it.

So that's why I say, if you got the ‘can't help it,’ then go do it. And do it with everything you've got. Do it with all the passion you can muster, because at the end of the day when you're luckily 100 and breathing your last, you're going, wasn't that fun? It was horrifically fun.