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Work Statement

I paint situations using people and events that are part of my history in order to comment on broader social issues.

In these works, power plays are explored in a parochial school setting. Oppressor and oppressed trade off as tensions escalate between the tradition-bound instructors and the boy, with the student masses caught in the middle. The boy projects Rambo, an archetype of the lone wolf who lashes out when pushed too far, a shoot-em up warrior with a cause.

Reinforcing and conflicting messages are taught at home and school, through religion and popular media, between actions and words, and the child's developing mind struggles to make sense of it. When an authority figures' pent up issues are manifested in abuse of power, reverberations appear in each child's response. Columbine, pedophilia, and fundamentalism are some of topics that I routinely consider while developing the paintings.

The viewer experiences each picture via cinematic angles and cropping as well as layered imagery reminiscent of multiple exposures. Events are pieced together, or constructed, through the recurrence of motifs throughout the paintings. For reference material I constructed a scale model based on the grammar school I attended, populated with clay figures and furniture.