

# Ira Epstein – A Presentation of his work

**Thursday, March 25 at 5:00 p.m. Join Us in Zoom**

(Please be prompt, do your homework: go to his instagram and be prepared with knowledge and perhaps a question for Mr. Epstein)

Ira Epstein was born in New York City, in 1963. When he was five, his family moved to an apartment across from the ocean in Rockaway Beach. His early experience of the seaside town – with its scale and space – combined with the influence of the long strangely vacant landscape.

Furthermore, there was a sense of time left midair there that was also formative for Mr. Epstein. The area stretched with beachside lots where houses had once stood, evidencing a wind-swept and layered emptiness scattered with stray parts of the past. In ways, the artist's work often reflects similar aspects of time and space – as layered and ephemeral – a quality deeply rooted in his childhood experience.

Ira fell in love with comics as a boy and set about becoming an artist from that point on. He spent his initial college years at the School of Visual Arts in NYC, where he studied with great cartoonists including Art Spiegelman and Jerry Moriarty. Various teachers with vision guided the young artist into one discovery after another until painting took hold. Under the tutelage of Herbert Katzman, whom the artist cites as a mentor, Mr. Epstein began to find his tribe. As the next few art-filled years unfolded, and as a Master's degree in Painting came and went at Boston University, other significant interests drew increasingly to the forefront. In time it was clear that painting (and art in general) was a deeply spiritual venture for the artist, a ship with which to explore – and sometimes, a "lifeboat" (the artist's own word).

Epstein states "my work is about my inherent creative faculty, your creative faculty, and nature's creative faculty – and about how this multidimensional experience arises. Through the use of my various tools, through accident, coincidence, impulse, intention, and change above all, I hope to share an experience of how we experience. To share the magic of it and the magical potential that creative experience represents. Even while we come face to face with the dual roles of subjectivity and the valid respect for objectivity, I want to say that there's magic in it all. That we are ultimately and fundamentally creative – and that it's urgent to be clear about how that works – and that maybe in the midst of seeing how it goes wrong, we can learn more about how it goes right." <https://www.instagram.com/iraepstein/>



## ZOOM

Meeting ID: 812 5997 6503

Passcode: Portfolio

<https://monroecommunity.zoom.us/j/81259976503?pwd=aDNL-N1BTMHYxTjVVRTk9yZXFTbIRZQT09>

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