

# PAINT PONY

Young, fun and flirty, Eric Zindorf likes to commit half-naked selfies to canvas. **Christopher Klimovski** catches him in Brooklyn with his clothes on... just!



**I MET ERIC** at a warehouse party in Bushwick. The most distinctive characteristic I can remember was that he seemed like a deer in the headlights, completely aware of his surrounding space. It was only after I was properly introduced and we started discussing what he does for a living that I began to understand that there was brilliance in his muted fear.

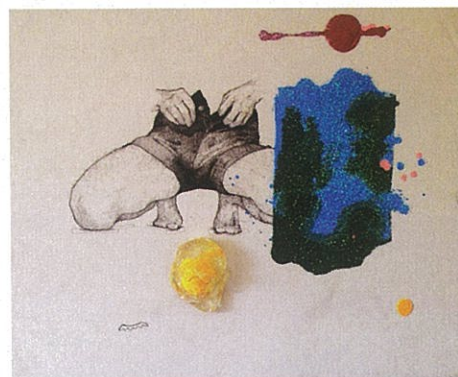
Raised in Kansas City, Missouri, he began his unique artistic life at a young age, infatuated by the colour blue and insisting to his mother that he live underwater. It is always an expectation that artists live in a world that they create with their vision moulded by experiences to show the world sides to them that they may not otherwise express.

For Eric, it is a vain sexuality that he presses onto canvas, trying to convince the world that this reserved, frightened fawn is a super-sexualised artistic maverick. He lit up a menthol cigarette to speak with DNA.

**DNA: Camel Crush. Is that your brand?** Yeah I need the menthol, but I can't bring myself to buy a pack of menthols. I feel like purchasing a pack of straight menthols is too effeminate.

**So who are you and what do you do?** I'm Eric Zindorf. I'm an artist: painter, sculptor, drawerer. You want more?

**Absolutely.** I'm really bad at interviews,



apparently. I've been doing art ever since watching *Dragonball Z* for the first time. So I started drawing Goku and then it moved into more mainstream anime. I was an anime kid growing up.

**Is it anime or hentai when the octopus is having sex with innocent schoolgirls?** [Corrects the pronunciation] That's hen-tie. I'm well-versed in all the names of Japanese cartoons and the pornography aspect of it, too. I feel like it kind of draws itself into my work.

**Walk us through the process, from the idea to finished product.** My ideas don't really start from the beginning, they kind of form throughout. I think of positions I want to put myself in and then I take videos of myself being oddly playfully sexual. Then I take a still from that and layer them over the acrylic paint swatches that I put over the canvas.

**How can you tell when an artwork is done?** I send pictures of it to a bunch of people and then I know it's done. It's weird, though, because I add shit to pieces all the time. There are paintings that I've given to people that I want to take back and add to but sometimes it's impossible to get the artwork back, like from an ex.

**How would you classify your artwork and who or what is your biggest inspiration?** I classify

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my artwork as vain, playful self-portraits. My inspiration in general would be anime. Also, I'm inspired by artists like Bjarne Melgaard, who is this crazy gay Norwegian artist that's fucking out of his mind.

**Your pieces carry a lot of homoerotic undertones.** I never really talk about sexuality and so I really like the idea of being able to put something down I can't talk about in an open forum on canvas.

**How do you think your art will evolve?** I feel like it will move in a more sculptural direction. A lot of people [in the art world] don't like acrylic paint because they feel like it looks cheap. They say oil looks better. I like that when it dries it looks really shitty and plastic but it adds to the playful nature of what I do. It gives it a toy-like look. I like keeping things a little childish.

**What roles do you feel artists play in 2015 and what role do you feel like they'll play in the future?** A lot of different artists play a lot of different roles. Right now it's all visual. I feel like the main purpose of art right now is so people



can buy it. It's because of this that I want artists, including myself, to put more emotion into our work.

**Do you feel like pop culture in general is influencing the art world?** It is. Art's always been a reflection of pop culture, but the fact that we can now put our stuff on social media, I mean, social media is structuring pop culture. So you can't have one without the other.

**If you and I were sitting here a year from now toasting your success, what will you have achieved?** I want to show in Gavin Brown. It's a gallery downtown that shows Rob Pruitt and a lot of forward thinking gay artists. I really appreciate a space that's gay-friendly. I just had a talk with somebody who wanted to do a solo show with me and they told me that they were only interested in things that weren't so homosexually motivated. It's really important for me to maintain my artistic integrity. I'm trying my very best to be really honest with my work and I feel integrity is intrinsically linked to honesty.

**What is your favourite artwork of yours?**

Me standing nude, side on. It's my favourite because I like putting things I don't own into my own work. One time I was at a bar in Key West where they had photos and business cards stacked thick on the walls, pinned up there, for like fifty years. I found photos of these siblings' passports and one of them was stunningly attractive so I took it home with me and included it into my work.

**So you're a thief.** Yeah, I am. I stole a photo of some boy with muttonchops. My favourite artwork of somebody else's is a poem by Charles Bukowski. After reading *Factotum*, I completely bonded with his way of life; his carefree, *I don't give a shit if I'm waking up in a brothel tomorrow or running a successful business as long as I'm drinking and smoking and being fucking happy* type mentality. A lot of his poetry isn't about being happy because it reflected him. He was always fucking sad.

**Let's move off the topic of art and get to know you.** Let's do it.

**What's your favourite colour?** Blue. I think it's the most important colour for a lot of different reasons. I always wanted to live underwater. In third grade I had my mother turn my bedroom into an under-the-sea habitat, she painted murals on the walls and everything. I also like blue because my brother really liked red.

**If you could be any flavor combination in this world, which would you be? For example, I would be mango with hot sauce.** [Laughs] I haven't tried that yet. I feel like I would be pizza rolls. Because they're cute little things and pizza is such a good flavor. I don't know a single person who doesn't like pizza.

**What would the title of your autobiography be?** Oh, I already have this. It would be, *You Can Have Your Cake And You CAN Eat It, Too*. My grandmother wrote that to me in my birthday card this year.

**Who is the most badass person that you can think of?** Marissa Cooper. She was one of the only people that died in the *OC* ever and she got shit-faced in Tijuana.

**If you could smoke a spliff with anybody alive or dead, who would it be and what would you talk about.** Whoopie Goldberg just came into my head. We'd talk about why she always wears those tiny oval glasses.

**You're in a field about to have rough, animalistic sex with a celebrity. Who is it?** That's deep. I don't like this answer; I actually hate this answer: Zac Efron. Isn't that disgusting? I've seen so many photos of him making out with Michelle Rodriguez and, you know, I'd want to join both of them, she's such a babe. She's definitely a lesbian though.

**Finally, is a picture worth a thousand words?** It can be, but I feel like a lot of mine are three with an exclamation point. Like, "eat my shit!"

More: Find Eric Zindorf on Instagram and Twitter @2014zindorf and his website, ericzindorf.com