



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED
 “Google,” a collection of 32 oil paintings, above, and “I Don’t Know,” 42 oil paintings, right, by artist Scott Hutchison.

Scott Hutchison: Honest and Animated

BY GREG WYSHYNSKI
 THE CONNECTION

Scott Hutchison is presenting only five works in his gallery show “Animated Portraits,” currently showing at The Waddell Art Gallery on the Loudoun County Campus of Northern Virginia Community College.

“There are only five pieces in it, actually — but there’s over 200 paintings,” he said.

The animation in Hutchison’s works is a combination of traditional painting and digital technology. Dozens of paintings will por-

“In some of the ways I’ve presented myself, you need to put the ego aside.”

— Scott Hutchison

tray one aspect of the artist’s face — an eye, his lips — and alter slightly from one panel to the next. If they’re combined digitally into sequential images, like some are on small LCD screens, they become like an oil-painted cartoon.

Hutchison, a resident artist at the Arlington Art Center and an instructor at The Art League, said his work “I Don’t Know” is a series of 42 paintings of his mouth that, when viewed together, move almost like stop-motion animation.

“It’s kind of like a flip-book, but it’s digital,” said Claire Huschle, executive director of the Arlington Art Center. “He’ll do hundreds of digital portraits, and then it’s like animated oil paintings.”

It’s not traditional animation, as Hutchison said he prefers the detail of each individual painting rather than the quick frames-per-second of the traditional medium. Rather, he sees

his paintings as interactive for the viewer.

“It’s nothing you can really touch,” he said. “You can see, in your mind, the animation play.” Frequently, that animation is a window into the artist’s mind.

HUTCHISON GREW UP in a small Iowa town, receiving a Bachelor’s in Painting from Drake University in 1995 and a Master’s from George Washington University in 1999.

Huschle said having Hutchison, 34, at the Arlington Art Center is an example of the Center’s dedication to present diverse artistic talent. In his case, she said, Hutchison is combining a classic medium in oil painting with new technology.

Hutchison is also currently an Adjunct Professor of Drawing at George Washington and an Adjunct Professor of Painting at Georgetown University, along with his work as a faculty member for The Art League in

Alexandria since 1997.

Hutchison doesn’t interact with many models and collaborators — the majority of his art is in self-portrait, and self-examination has always been one of his aims.

“For me, I’ve always seen art as being that, whether I’m painting a still-life or even painting someone else. It’s something I do alone; since I’m along in my studio, the best model was ‘me,’” he said. “I take a break when the model takes a break.”

HE STARTED HIS current body of work, like the pieces showing at The Waddell Art Gallery, back in 2003. The gallery’s curator, Donald Depuydt, took part in a show with Hutchison at the Arlington Arts Center in 1999, and invited Hutchison to have his pieces at the NVCC Loudoun campus, located at 1000 Harry Flood Byrd Highway in Sterling.

Hutchison brings his own body into honest focus in his art. Self-examination comes naturally, he said, but there are still some personal barriers he’s yet to break down. “I’ve painted nude models before, I’m not to the point where I feel comfortable doing that with my own body,” he said.

ART Where & When

Scott Hutchison’s art can be viewed at The Waddell Art Gallery, Loudoun County Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 1000 Harry Flood Byrd Highway in Sterling. The gallery is open 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and is closed on the weekend. The show runs through Dec. 14. Call 703-450-2627 for more information.

Visit www.scotthutchison.com for more information about the artist and his studio space with the Arlington Art Center.