

# INSPIRATIONAL JAM



PAINTINGS BY CARL RISTAINO

JANUARY 26 - MARCH 29 IN THE WEDGE GALLERY

EDUCATION PAMPHLET



THE UMBRELLA  
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# INSPIRATIONAL JAM

## CARL RISTAINO

Carl Ristaino has been working on art and cartoons from a very young age. Early inspiration for his paintings came from attending concerts of live improvisational music and people watching at music venues, as well as cross country road trips to New Orleans and Seattle in the early 1990s. These days you can find Carl in his 'Art Shed' on the weekends, painting with improvisational jams cranked to 11.



be part  
of the  
Jazz!



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a jam

## FINDING YOUR FLOW

This exhibition is about...

Jazz

improvisational  
music

imagination  
a flow

In *Inspirational Jam*, Carl Ristaino captures the kinetic energy and soulful spontaneity of jazz music and culture through bold acrylic paintings that pulse with rhythm and life.



Carl has an 'Art Shed' where he works. This is his refuge from the rest of the world, where he can make art without outside influence. He gets messy, experiments, plays his music as loud as it can go, and feels inspired by what he hears.

Carl recommends finding a creative sanctuary to experiment artistically where you can try different things and find your own flow.



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## BEHIND THE SCENES

Carl's love of improvisational music heavily influences his artistic process. He uses experimental techniques such as pouring paint in zig-zag lines, and cutting and splicing together different canvases to create new ones. This creates a "**psychedelic stained glass**" effect.

Carl draws on his experiences seeing live music at concerts and clubs to create the scenes in his paintings. He starts by painting one character and then fills in the scene around them, paying attention to how the characters interact with each other. These paintings blend "**the strange and the mundane**" of the music scene. He combines castles and pirate ships with UFO's and ancient pyramids to build a world of pure creativity.



An important part of Carl's process is finding the right soundtrack. He is constantly tuning his music to get in the right headspace for his next painting. Sometimes he plays the same song four or five times in a row! "**The music is a part of the color palette**" that Carl uses to create new worlds.



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## VOCABULARY

**Hieroglyphics:** The formal writing system of ancient Egypt using symbols and pictures. Blending art and language together for sacred texts.

**Improvisation:** Making it up as you go!

## ACTIVITIES

Carl draws inspiration from the art of Ancient Egypt by incorporating **hieroglyphics** into many of his paintings. Like the **improvisational** music that inspires him, Carl will sometimes **improvise** his own symbols inspired by this ancient writing system.

- How many of these symbols can you find?

Look closely at the “stained glass” in Carl’s paintings. Do you see any hidden images?

Find a space to sit down and listen to a song that inspires you. Draw or paint a scene based on the music.



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## REFLECTION

"I invite you to improvise the characters' lives and backstory. They are living in the moment, so time for them does not really exist. Feel free to speculate on these characters and to be part of the Jazz." - Carl

- How do you imagine interacting with the characters in Carl's paintings?
- Where do these paintings take you? What would you be feeling or hearing?

