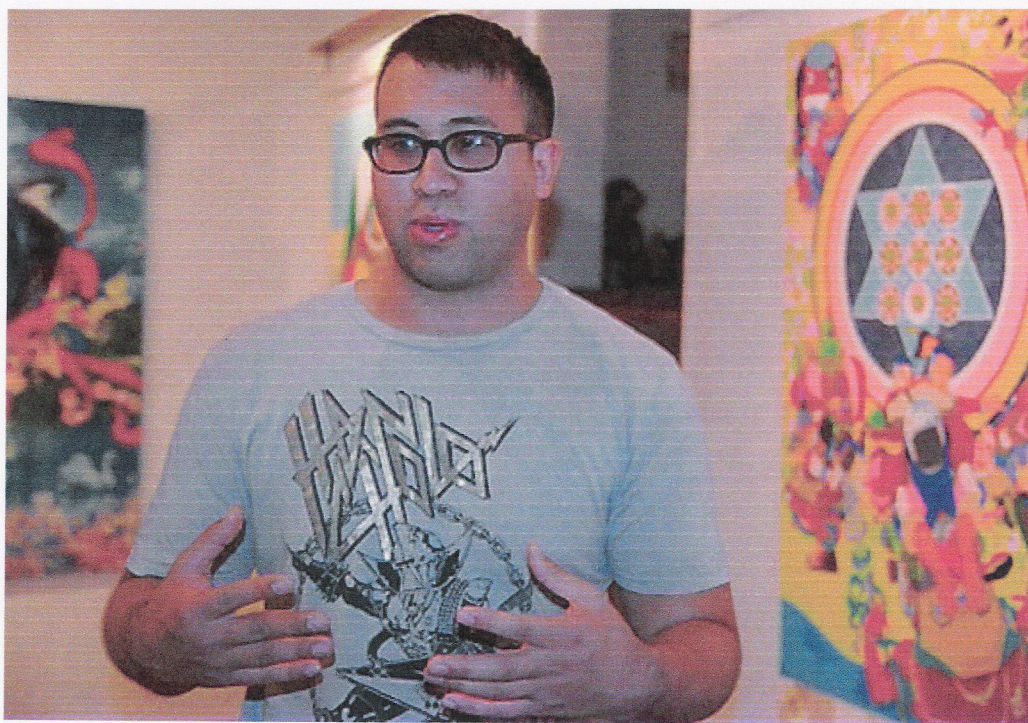


Toby Barnes

Posted by sunanda | 07. January 2009

Pop culture, cartoon craziness and subtle spirituality. All this and more are depicted through Toby Barnes' paintings. Sunanda Pati met the man who thinks India would complete his art experience, on his first visit to the country.



Your form of art experiments with spirituality and anime. What makes you arrive at an understanding to use such varying elements together?

Let me explain this by referring to other forms of art like poetry or music. For example, in poetry, it's more about the words you use and the kind of poetry you want to write. And then there's DJ-ing where you can play around with beats, refer to different samples of music and mash it all up. I do the same thing in visual language. Whether it's traditional iconography or contemporary cartoons, I give myself a kind of freedom to play around with conventions. I think most of it has to do with intuition. Basically my tuning is with imagery so I go with it as it comes and don't try to obvert.

Could you explain the use of spiritual icons like Gods and yantras and technological innovations like robots on the same plane?

People look upto robots and deities because both have a kind of superhuman quality. Also, it goes