

## Rolandas Kiaulevicius

### Biography

I was born in a small village called Sankonys, in Lithuania. I grew up surrounded by the best three sisters and the most wonderful parents.

Inspired by my Uncle Vytautas Dabrukas, well known artist, I took my brushes, paint and moved to Siauliu Pedagogical University to study "Final Arts and Wood Work". I fell in love

with this town. I loved my school and education. From the first I met my best friends, who looked at art the way I did. Moreover, I started dancing in a Lithuanian folk dancing group, "Saule," which became a very important part of my life. I spent a lot of time practicing in "Saule" and, even more important, I found people who were fun, original, loved dancing and accepted the real me. We traveled all over Lithuania and visited other countries including Belgium, Poland, Latvia, England, Scotland, the United States, Denmark and Germany. We met new people, we spoke different languages, we learned more about the world, and, of course, we had great time.

With my good friends, in Siauliu University, I published a humor newspaper for the students. Later I got interested in fashion design. I organized three shows, where I invited other fashion designers and presented my own collections. Studying at the Siauliu University, dancing in "Saule," living in the dorm with most original and coolest friends, creating fashion designs, publishing a newspaper, creating the art without any boundaries --that was the part of my life that created what I am now. After I finish my bachelor's degree I came to America. I lived in a wonderful American family. Jack and Gini became like my real parents, supporting and loving me. Moreover, in this family I met my little friends, their kids, who became like my real siblings. Recently I finished my MFA degree at Western Connecticut State University and won a contest that enabled me to publish "Zoolidays". I've taken intensive English courses at Gateway Community College, Yale University and other places and I have been teaching illustration, drawing, and sculpture at Guilford Art Center, Eastern Connecticut State University, New Haven University Wightwood School and other places. My art shines with my heart, history, humor, technique & love.

ROLANDAS KIAULEVICIUS



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### Statement

Art for me starts with perception. I look for new forms, interesting textures, objects and patterns. In my art I try to show what I hear, what I smell, what I see, what I touch, what I taste; transformed by feelings and experiences and translated into the artistic media to become something new, which touches and moves others. In the process of creating art I am

transformed. Art refines my perception and thinking, art helps me work on the questions in my life, of the knowable and the unknowable, of the profound as well as the trivial.

I started to draw when I was three and half. Since then it has not mattered where I was, and with whom, I draw all the time. I think that I got this drive from my mother who draws very well. In fact my whole family is filled with artists; I have four uncles, six aunts and five cousins who are all artists. So my whole life I have been surrounded by love and art. I think I started to feel like a true artist when I finished art school at seventeen years old. I worked with fashion designs, I did some illustrations for children's books, and I did some sculptures, drawing, printing, and painting in my native country. Unfortunately, Lithuania is economically depressed so it is almost impossible to make a living as an artist. I traveled to America from Lithuania in order to find new opportunities for myself as an artist and to explore and to embrace a new culture, new models, new patterns, and new approaches to art.



Rolandas Kiaulevicius, *Rock Stars*, 2008, watercolor, 28" x 34"  
ADDITIONAL IMAGES CAPTIONS NEEDED

In the United States I worked with wonderful American artists like Robert Reynolds and Peter Nuhn. I have also worked with the Russian artist, Vladimir Shpitalnik. These artists are role models for me. They help me to find a new way, and a new attitude, to transform myself into a better artist. They helped me to understand the traditions and culture of American artists and art. I have worked for more than two years with Robert Reynolds and it is a pleasure to work with him. His humor and the warmth of his art have surrounded me all these years and have pushed me in good directions. He not only has guided my thinking a great deal, he has let me use his

studio, so that I could work on larger pieces. I have done some prints, some paintings and have worked a lot on a sculpture. From Robert I learned how to use computer programs like Corel painter 9, Adobe Photoshop 9.0 and other programs as new artistic tools.