

Classic Posters Interview with Tara McPherson by Michael Erlewine

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Michael Erlewine: When and how did you get interested in art?

Tara McPherson: I have always been interested in art since childhood, having gone to art schools since Jr. High School, as well. I used to collect posters, and then I thought.... "Hey, I can do this too." So I did.

Michael Erlewine: What kind of art influenced you?

Tara McPherson: My main influences come from the Gothic, Renaissance, Mannerist, and Baroque eras. Like Bronzino, Carravagio, Rembrandt, Titian, Botticelli, Ingres. I also admire many current artists as well like John Currin, Joe Sorren, Glen Barr.

Michael Erlewine: What concert-posters artists influenced you?

Tara McPherson: Well, I think that of course most people were very much influenced by Frank Kozik and Coop, myself included. They were pretty much the only posters artists I knew of when I was younger. As far as contemporary poster artists I admire Mike King, Jay Ryan / The Bird Machine, Alan Forbes, Leia Bell. But I really try not to take too much from anyone stylistically speaking.

Michael Erlewine: What was your first concert-music poster?

Tara McPherson: It was for my old band The New Detectives and we played with the Stitches and The Fakes at a place called The Liquid Den on July 12th 2002.

Michael Erlewine: What are the main venues you have done posters for?

Tara McPherson: Knitting Factory in Holly wood and The Scene in San Diego. I will be starting to do posters for Goldenvoice shows very soon also.

Michael Erlewine: What are the main bands you have done posters for?

Tara McPherson: Most of the posters I do are for bands I like. But to name a some...Built To Spill, The Rapture, The Bangs, Cat Power, Beck, PJ Harvey....

Michael Erlewine: What media do you use?

Tara McPherson: I mainly use 11x17" digital offsets to give to the clubs for their promotion. And I am starting to get more screen prints for my editions.

Michael Erlewine: What other poster artists have you collaborated with?

Tara McPherson: Darren Grealish.

Who are your favorite current poster artists?: Jay Ryan, Mike King, Leia Bell, Brian Ewing,oh I know I'm forgetting someone .

Michael Erlewine: What are your favorite bands?

Tara McPherson: I'm listening to The Gun Club right now. This week I've been listening to The Convocation Of, Moving Units, The Shins, Hot Hot Heat, and Joy Division.

Michael Erlewine: Any shows of your work: The Muse Gallery, San Diego, CA, with Marco Almera and Tim McCormick, June 14th to July 7th, 2003