

# The Art Guys Museum of Whatever We Please (AGMWWP)

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## *Don Ed Hardy: Death or Glory*

The Art Guys Museum of Whatever We Please  
5757 Knox Street, Houston, Texas 77019

**Opening Reception: Friday, June 8, 2012, 7-9pm**

Internationally recognized tattoo artist Don Ed Hardy returns to The Art Guys Museum for the first time since 1997. Work from diverse series will be shown, much of it for the first time. Many of the paintings and drawings date from the late 80s and 90s, when Hardy began refocusing on his personal "therapy" art, after twenty years of exclusively tattooing. Subjects, themes and treatments range widely—from pop culture to deeply engaged art history— but share many formal considerations. All have roots in his interests, experience, and influences at various periods of his life, from childhood on. When he found time to focus again, away from commissions on skin, this work erupted in often-frantic studio activity. Mediums range from oil or acrylic on canvas to bandaged mixed media works and works on paper.

For more information including hi-res images, visit <http://TheArtGuys.com/News.html>



Don Ed Hardy

photo by Emiko Omori

## About Don Ed Hardy:

A Southern California native born in 1945, Hardy revived a childhood determination to become a tattoo artist and underwent a tattoo apprenticeship while simultaneously receiving a BFA degree in printmaking at the San Francisco Art Institute in 1967. Tattooing professionally since then, he developed the fine art potential of the medium with emphasis on its Asian heritage. In 1973 he lived in Japan, studying with a traditional tattoo master – the first non-Asian to gain access to that world. He resumed these studies in Japan throughout the 1980s.

In 1982 Hardy and his wife, Francesca Passalacqua, formed Hardy Marks Publications and have written, edited and published more than twenty-five books on alternative art. They moved their primary household to Honolulu in 1986, where Hardy resumed painting, drawing, and printmaking. He maintains the studio Tattoo City in San Francisco, with his son Doug and younger skin artists that carry on his unique vision. Hardy's current focus is on creating and exhibiting works in more traditional media, including, watercolor, acrylic on paper, and porcelain painting.

Hardy has had solo exhibitions at many galleries and institutions, including Track 16 Gallery, Santa Monica, CA (1997, 1999, 2000, 2003, 2008, 2011); Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Boulder, CO (1998); Instituto de Artes Graficas, Oaxaca, Mexico (2005); Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA (2009, 2011); SFMOMA Artists Gallery, San Francisco, CA (2011). Since the 1970's, his work has been included in numerous group exhibitions, including *Tattoo!* at the Museum of American Folk Art, New York (1971); *In Celebration of Ourselves* at The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (1975); *The Return of the Cadavre Exquis* at The Drawing Center, New York (1993); *7th Bienal of Painting*, Cuenca, Ecuador (2001); *Shark's Ink* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver (2009). In 2004 "Ed Hardy," a major fashion line featuring his artwork, was launched internationally. Hardy and his wife now divide their time between Honolulu and the San Francisco Bay area.

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### Links:

All things Hardy - Hardy Marks Publications  
<http://www.hardymarks.com/>

### Hardy explains himself –

Rena Bransten Gallery Parts 1 & 2  
<http://vimeo.com/30764486>  
<http://vimeo.com/30764758>

### Ed Hardy's Tattoo City

<http://www.tattoocitysf.com/>

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In conjunction with *Death or Glory* DiverseWorks ArtSpace will present Don Ed Hardy's *2000 Dragons*, a 500 foot-long scroll painting of 2000 dragons, created in the year 2000. Also on view will be a series of twelve new dragon paintings – one for each month of 2012, the first Year of the Dragon since 2000. The exhibition will be on view June 9 – July 7, 2012 at DiverseWorks ArtSpace, 1117 East Freeway, Houston, TX 77002. An opening reception will be held Saturday, June 9, 3 – 6 pm.