

By: Erin
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artists
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Art Crush: America Martin

Last week I talked a little bit about [art's storytelling abilities](#)... and wow guys, [America Martin](#) is an artist who can tell a story with only a few lines and bursts of color. Not an easy task, ya hear. I'm talking to all of you contemporary-art-is-so-easy-my-five-year-old-could-do-it folks.



Martin has always painted people, but not in the traditional sense. Instead of simply painting what the person looks like (ugh that's like so 18th century), Martin paints their essence, their character, that intangible quality of the human spirit. I mean that's really the best part, right?



I love when artists embrace their medium, when you can tell a painting is a painting, and you can see the brushstrokes, splatters, and drips. There's an honesty and an energy that emerges when this happens. Not only is the action and hand of the artist revealed, but this energy sets the tone of the painting. In works like *Card Players* (above) and *Pink Tuba, Orange Trombone* (below) you can almost hear the sound of cards shuffling and feel music vibrating from the bold splashes of color... now that's good storytelling.



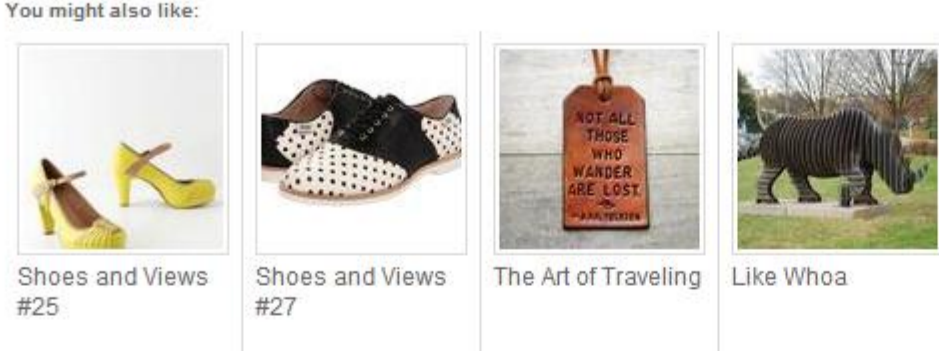
Martin is a Colombian-American artist living, working, and finding inspiration in Los Angeles. Learn more about Martin – and get a peek at her studio! – over on [Argot & Ochre](#).



For all my Maine friends, [Carver Hill Gallery](#) in Rockland, Maine, is having their second solo show for America Martin, opening this week! *Through the Eyes of America*, a show inspired by Maine's countryside, will open for the First Friday Art Walk on August 3rd, from 5 – 8pm. The gallery will also host a Q & A session at 1:00pm on Saturday, followed by a reception until 4pm. If you go, I'd love to hear about it!

Images: [Nightingale Lady](#) | [Card Players](#) | [Pink Tuba, Orange Trombone](#) | [Blue Bird](#)

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Lisa says: August 2, 2012 2:39 pm Confession: I used to think that certain types of contemporary art were so easy, they could be created by a 5 year old. That is, until I tried it myself. Whoa! I think there is a real art behind making something look "simple". Martin's work is remarkable – I like that she puts focus on replicating the character of the people she draws. Thanks for sharing – I hope you've been having a great week! :)

Erin says: August 2, 2012 6:54 pm Thanks, Lisa!! I totally agree with you. So much goes into creating a great work of art, even the "simple" ones :) I'm so glad you enjoyed her work!

rita says: August 2, 2012 7:52 pm love love love these! read on my phone earlier today and had to come back to see the images on my computer to really see them... so much emotion and energy. thanks for sharing!

Erin says: August 2, 2012 8:20 pm Thank you, Rita!! I'm so glad you love them! Isn't the energy incredible? Such great paintings.

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