

DEM PASSWORDS

Victor Cayro
The Seven Deadly Finnas
Aug 29th – Sep 27th, 2020

@ Artisan's Patio 6727 Hollywood Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90028

This exhibition is open to the public and
viewable Mon-Fri 4-6PM, Saturdays 4-8PM
and by appointment.

To schedule a viewing please email
info@dempasswords.com.



Dem Passwords is pleased to present *The Seven Deadly Finnas* by Victor Cayro.

Mapped onto the Christian concept of the cardinal sins -- pride, wrath, greed, lust, envy, gluttony and sloth -- Cayro's "finnas," or "things to do," are depicted here across six single-panel cartoons ringed by a set of six additional drawings of battle-ready Buddhist monks situated in a 7' x 5' (2.13 x 1.5 m) display cabinet along the Artisan's Patio pedestrian alleyway at 6727 Hollywood Boulevard.

Pressed flush to the glass from the inside, the twelve 14" x 15.5" (35.6 x 39.4 cm) works on paper hide paintings on fabric and t-shirts hanging inside the cabinet, comprising a sort of mini showroom for Cayro's *Have Sex* lifestyle and apparel brand.

Drawing inspiration from underground comix and Chinese martial arts cinema, Cayro's development of what he calls the *Infinity Style Fist* refers to his ability to combine disparate elements and output styles into his horror vacui on one end and something more expressionistic at the other. The clash of these styles, the internal and the external like in Chinese martial arts and spatially in this cabinet display, show his mastery of feats of strength and spirit. But Cayro doesn't meld "high" and "low," though his skill level is virtuosic, he melds "low" and "lower" in search of unexplored territory -- that extra flip to a deep dive that no one with any good sense and even half the talent would bother with.

Pushing way past absurdity and the delineations of the panel in the crushed quality of his *Finnas* and in the bleed of his fabric works (which extend out of the scratch pad marginalia of his comics published under the alias Bald Eagles), it's the lines he leaves in, the "energy lines" which include the rough sketching he folds into the finished works with ink and maker

that have become his hallmark.

Speaking to the plagues of celebrity worship, and vanity and consumption cultures in particular, Cayro's drawings (sanitized here in a rare public display) use and abuse Hollywood entertainment properties, crooks, clods and corporatists for laughs and for reflection through fan fiction on the American pathologies of self-absorption, power and paranoia.

Cayro's rogues' gallery includes:

Kanye West as the prideful vanity cultist with one eye on the self-improvement imperative and the other on his peerless status as the, "greatest artist God has ever created."*

Southern California attorney Jacob Emrani, familiar for his billboard advertising campaign, flipped here into a grifting adventure duo alongside Ronald "Ronny" McDonald.

Dora the Explorer as a chapéu-ed super consumer in what looks like a blasted page out of a coloring book.

A sloth in a way more vile hat pressing his long arms into service against government overreach.

Jason Statham as a revenge-bent ghost assassin in search of his lost love in the arms of Sylvester Stallone.

Felix the Cat entwined with another sex symbol, the wretched Internet icon of impotence.

And finally the Shaolin monks in their dual role as the angels in the art historical lineage of *The Seven Deadly Sins*, and as virtuous enforcers. And it is the monks who connect the stylistic quality of the heavily worked *Finnas* to the more open-ended fabric paintings within.

Cayro is in no way immune to the impulses he depicts and to the sins to which they lead -- he's striking at the heart of the entertainment industry in a way that's also self-destructive, with output that's always been autobiographical. Here he's infantilized among the monks, depicted as a drunk and his vulgarity is at home on the boulevard. Really, the work isn't that far off from what the caricature artists down the block are making for tourists. And we're selling souvenir t-shirts too.

Victor Cayro (b. 1980, Dubuque, Iowa) lives and works in Los Angeles. Cayro's work has been published in comics anthologies including *Kramers Ergot*, *Legal Action Comics Vol. 1 & 2* and *The Best American Comics 2014*. He's exhibited at galleries including Synchronicity Space, Superchief and in self-produced solo showings.

*<https://www.xxlmag.com/kanye-west-defends-joel-osteen/>

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