

Jeb Loy Nichols Biog

"Art and music, sound and vision, it's all the same - ways of trying to make sense of the senseless world in which we live."

1961

Born in the Red Hills of Wyoming.

I began as I would continue; leaving, on the road. We moved first to Colorado, then back to Wyoming, then to a small farm in Missouri. My father taught, my mother painted, I listened to the radio. I began a lifetime affair with two things: art and music.

1975

Moved to Austin Texas.

By immersing myself in art and music I tried to ignore the conservative ravings of my new home. The next year, 1976, I heard the Sex Pistols and everything changed. More of an outsider than ever, at least I knew there were like minded people out there. Saw the Sex Pistols in San Antonio and thought: that's the life for me.

1979

Moved to New York.

I applied for a scholarship to Parson's art school. I was accepted and moved there immediately. I dove headfirst into a New York scene that was in total upheaval. Downtown there were the post punk dance clubs, uptown, in Harlem, there was hip-hop. I embraced both worlds. Nights were spent at clubs and discos, days were spent painting, stencilling, screen printing.

1982

Moved to London.

In New York I'd become friendly with various British bands. I accepted an offer to come over and found myself in a squat with Ari Up from the Slits, Neneh Cherry and Adrian Sherwood. Again I pushed into the scene, going to gigs, writing music reviews, importing rap records, trying to find a place.

1988

Went to an advanced printmaking course at the University of Texas. Taught printmaking at Art Awareness, New York.

In London I began to seriously pursue printmaking - woodcuts, linocuts, monoprints and etching. I also formed a country band and began gigging.

1989

Had my first show at Young Unknowns Gallery in London.

I formed a new band; Fellow Travellers. This was a mix of the country music I grew up with and the reggae I was surrounded by.

1990

Released first Fellow Travellers CD.

Over the next five years four more CDs would appear. I had exhibitions of my woodcuts in Berlin and Madrid. I converted a Victorian stable yard in south London into a thriving arts co-op, Clements Yard.

1996

Released first solo CD.

Over the next ten years I would release four more CDs and have a successful career that would take me around the world. I had further exhibitions in New York, Germany, France and Japan.

1997

Art Director for Pressure Sounds.

For the next seven years I helped run and design the releases on Pressure Sounds, a London based reggae label.

2000

Moved to Wales.

I bought a small holding in the Welsh hills and set up a printmaking studio.

In 2004 I was commissioned by Paul Smith to design a range of t-shirts and fabric. In conjunction with Paul Smith, I had a large exhibition of woodcuts in Japan.

I continue to use art and music as tools to help me understand what it is I'm doing and why I'm doing it. Art makes momentary sense of a world built on randomness. Printmaking, for me, says: this is who I am right now.

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