

# <The Borderline of Art>



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First I need to inform you a little about my life, because I think that it is important for understanding how I developed the style in painting I now use. I was born in 1960 in Delft, the old city in The Netherlands. At the time there was not a lot of luxury at home; we lived the first two years of my life in a small room at my Grandparents house. We had black and white television and radio and some vinyl records. Growing up in a Christian environment, Christian school and on Sundays walking to church was normal to us as was playing soccer all the time.

My father had lots of books about art and was painting himself as was his father and uncle. He also had a large interest in History; world war two, the cold war. I inherited his interests. In The sixties a lot was happening: the murder of President Kennedy, The Beatles and The Stones, the Apollo flights to the moon, radio pirates on the North Sea. As I always listened to the radio all day long, even in bed with the sound turned very low so my parents would not notice I was not asleep, I grew a great liking to (pop) music. Reading was also a great hobby when growing up; we had no game consoles. I read about everything, tabloids, Ian Fleming's James Bond, comic books like Tarzan and Asterix and later books by my favorite: Stephen King! I also did some writing at the time, some short stories and some poems. To be creative was already present, but also a minimalistic "idea" developed in my mind and Creative work. I thought it was fun to use a minimum of words (less is more) as possible to create a story or poem.

Early on in my life I learned drawing at home from my father and his uncle. It started with drawing matchboxes , opened and closed, in all kinds of angles. Drawing was just fun. I remember that we had an art shop in the center of Delft which sold all kinds of pencils and I bought a lot of them using all my pocket money . To become a professional painter was not a thought or ambition I had at that time at all, I did not know what I wanted to do for a living. When I was 15 years old I went to the pub with my friends and before I knew it, I worked there .At first as a dishwasher and later as a fulltime bartender and drawing was sent to the back of my list of interest. Only at 45 years of age I started painting again, possibly a bit out of a midlife crisis feeling.

By reading art books and visiting museums, I learned about a lot of different kinds of art styles and stumbled in the end on the art of Mondrian .His use of squares, primary colors and black lines gave me a happy feeling when looking at his art (probably not his idea), but also made me think what I could do with this style. I like figurative artwork , but the challenge of making almost everything "square "started just for fun at first in my paintings. The black lines also give the paintings a "Comic book" idea, but without the text balloons. There are recurring items in my work for example: the small square columns with an umbrella nearby or with a balloon, they represent man -woman or child.

I work on one painting as a rule and only start another one when the first is finished, so that I have my full concentration focused on the work at hand.

The developing of my style is a mix of personal taste and my own character. I see painting as a form of amusement and viewing at paintings is in my opinion the same thing. It takes years of experimenting and thinking about forms and structures to get to a point to have an own style in art. Part of it (for me) is hoping to create something that is original. Lots of artists start with copying styles from others. At first I was inspired by van Gogh, Mondrian, Picasso and Whistler. As a painter I feel you must grow out of copying others, but it is wise to study the work of fellow artists.