



OBSCURED FACES

There are many reasons to cover your face and depending on your perspective some of these reasons are benign, while others might be distancing, unsavory, or even malicious. In this series Kappus has removed that context and depict only the human skin that is visible. The impetus for him, is to assert that people are people first and that while attributes and contexts are worth considering they are tertiary to behavior and basic personhood.

Jason Kappus sorts the pieces into different title categories (covered, protected, veiled, etc) in order to allude to the intention (as he perceives it) for each person's covering. He also lists as part of the title the country where he believes the photo was taken. Kappus takes these titling liberties to convey the documentary origins of the pieces - these are real people in the world.

Whether he has any right to speak on behalf of anyone else, or appropriate their face for his purposes is entirely questionable. Likewise, while he says these pieces are political, since that's how they function for him, he states that you are welcome to disregard him and his politics. Jason Kappus believes that the first duty of art is to be pleasing and to incite in the viewer an aesthetic happiness or appreciation. Thus all intentions and theoreticals aside, he hopes that these are, if nothing else, intriguing portraits of people from around the world.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Painting is one of the things that Jason Kappus does. He's also the Program Director of PDX-CSA. He also sells used books. He also writes things.

