

## MARK SHEEKY ARTIST'S STATEMENT

As a child, computer programming was my obsession, and I worked in solitude on this for about two decades. I lacked any meaningful social contact until my mid-thirties; my principle friend in the preceding years was a pen-pal who I wrote to monthly. I joined a local art group in 2007 and realised that I had been an artist, rather than a game developer, for all of my life. I began oil painting and immediately wanted to portray ideas, rather than mere copies of things. I knew nothing about art, but have learned much over the years since, and studied classical oil painting techniques like a master scientist.

My life since then has been a whirlwind of activity and I embrace all media with great energy. My temperament is romantic: emotion is the root of great art, and like a Romantic composer, I want to display my feelings, skill, and imagination; make the amount of work evident, and strive to master my skills. I reject what is easy and automated. Art must always push boundaries.

Themes in art can be social, which have more immediate emotional impact but lose context over time, or personal and universal. I make both sorts of art, but as a somewhat withdrawn person, tend to create the latter. My instincts are rebellious and my artistic heroes are Ludwig van Beethoven, I sympathise with his struggle and I love his music, and Ingmar Bergman, for his great intellectual insight into relationships and the human condition.

Mark Sheeky, 2018