
Statement of Plans

2024 will be the final year of work on an animated motion picture (and related exhibition) titled The Jackleg Testament, part 2: The Book of Only Enoch. Work will be directed towards the premiere (Jan. 2025, University of Ky Museum) of the motion picture as the central piece in an exhibition including parts of the sculptural sets, a portfolio of prints also titled The Book of Only Enoch, a selection of the narrative graphite drawings and some of the hundreds of working graphite drawings from which the characters (and further drawn flora and fauna and architectural elements) are rigged and made to act, plus ephemera. In March 2024, there will be space dedicated to aspects of this work by the Solway Gallery at The Outsider Art Fair in New York City in hopes of interesting further venues. Parts 1 and 2 of the trilogy, plus related works on paper, has also been solicited by a new opera and arts festival in central France, Festival Lyrique de Villefranche-de-Rouergue, in cooperation with their art museum, Musée Urbain Cabrol in Summer of 2025.

The sets, drawings, prints, script, cinematography, animation, direction, music are all my work. I have been blessed in these final stages by many talented voices and musicians, in trade for my visual work. I will continue to work with these people in these final stages.

This work has been my focus over approx. the last 14 years. Four of those years were spent in writing, drawing, cutting, and printing the portfolio of large-scale prints also titled The Book of Only Enoch, which figures in the narrative of the motion picture. That portfolio has been the subject of several exhibitions and a book published by the University of Richmond Museum (VA).

In the motion picture these prints (in book form) show up from Cuba at the labyrinth of a puppeteer (and his Scottish henchman) in eastern Kentucky. The puppeteer is about to go to the carnival where he puts on a puppet show every few epochs. I had made another motion picture (made entirely from woodcuts) in the early 2000's titled The Jackleg Testament, part 1: Jack & Eve - a woodcut motion picture (it is mostly sung by the woodcut figures (my score and book also)). In part 2, the woodcut motion picture turns out to have been a puppet show at the carnival.

Only Enoch is a boy named after the apocryphal Old Testament Book of Enoch about a man who went to heaven and lived to tell the tale (and heaven was not what it was advertised to be).

The puppeteer is trying to discern if The Book of Only Enoch is what he thinks of as "sacred literature" (as he does, for example, Pinocchio, Alice in Wonderland, Bruno Schulz's Sanatorium Under the Sign of the Hourglass and much of the work of Flannery O'Connor and William Blake).

There is a parallel narrative in the motion picture to that in the portfolio of prints - that of the character referred to in the script as Narrator (voice of Brad Dourif - who was a huge influence on me in my 20's in his portrayal of Hazel Motes in director John Huston's Wise Blood based on the Flannery O'Connor novel of the same name). Narrator seems the only character able to see some of the imagery from The Book of Only Enoch come alive in the physical landscapes he passes through. He also encounters imagery in a junk shop in Appalachia - bits of drawn characters in buckets who later come alive, including Willful Girl who later joins him on his journey as well as the Map of the Map (originally seen in Only Enoch's bedroom in the portfolio).