

PRESS-TELEGRAM

‘Doggystyle’ artist Joe Cool of Long Beach has new art, and new lifestyle



Local artist Darryl Joecool Daniel who designed the cover of Snoop Dogg's Doggystyle album cover, talks about his art that he donated to a local sobriety organization Safe Refuge in Long Beach, CA. Thursday August 27, 2015. (Thomas R. Cordova-Daily Breeze/Press-Telegram)

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COMMENTS

If the old line about a picture being worth a thousand words is true, maybe two pictures can tell a bigger story.

This story belongs to Long Beach artist Darryl “Joe Cool” Daniel, and the two pictures are examples of his own work.

The first of the two is the famous cover art for [Snoop Doggy Dogg’s “Doggystyle” album](#). Joe Cool and Snoop Dogg, by the way, are cousins.

The second is a new painting called “Safe Refuge.” Joe Cool unveiled the artwork Thursday at the Long Beach sober living facility with the same name as the painting.

“This place right here. This place right here, is known for re-rocking people. For those of you who are like me, you know



Local artist Darryl Joecool Daniel who designed the cover of Snoop Dogg's Doggystyle album cover, talks to the residents of Safe Refuge who are reflected off a pane of glass, before donating original art to the local sobriety organization in Long Beach, CA. Thursday August 27, 2015. (Thomas R. Cordova-Daily Breeze/Press-Telegram)



what re-rock means,” Joe Cool said, with a few people laughing at his reference to a term used by cocaine users.

“It means you take the bad and the impurities, and make it better. This place is known for taking people and making it better. It is a safe refuge.”

Joe Cool’s new painting shows an ocean teeming with predatory sea life representing the likes of alcohol, heroin, crack cocaine and prescription drugs. There dangerous waters surround a sandy island where four human figures are shown crawling to the safety promised by an illuminated green house.

Those people, Joe Cool told his audience, are “the ones who made it back.”

TWO IMAGES

Joe Cool was connected to Safe Refuge through [Save Art](#), a Santa Monica organization whose founder, Jacob Hanna, is producing a short documentary on Joe Cool’s life.

The painting Joe Cool donated to the groups could be interpreted as a warning to avoid addiction or as in inspiration for those trying to escape its prisons. It’s something of a contrast to Joe Cool’s more famous artwork.

The Doggystyle cover, depicting an anthropomorphized dog clad in a blue flannel shirt and jeans leaning over a dog house with one hand reaching toward a female character wearing much less clothing, is among the best-known album covers in hip hop music.

The way Joe Cool told his story, however, his life is almost completely different from what it was when Doggystyle came out in 1993.

Joe Cool admitted to being “high as a kite” when he drew the Doggystyle cover and said he abused substances including crack cocaine from 1987 through 2003. Elements of his past lifestyle included being affiliated with Insane Crips, painting walls in a crackhouse and drawing tattoo patterns for fellow inmates in state prison.

“There is a God,” Joe Cool said in a telephone interview. “I’m living proof, because if he can deliver me from what he delivered me from, he can deliver you too.”

AFTER ADDICTION

Joe Cool said he’ll mark 12 years of sobriety in October. Although he did not undergo treatment at Safe Refuge, formerly known as [Substance Abuse Foundation](#), he said others who did are among those who inspired him to stop using drugs.

Jay Guzman, 32, a client at Safe Refuge, said he didn’t want to go along with counseling at first, but is now following direction and “learning to accept that you can heal.” He hopes to restart his life as an advocate for HIV and AIDS prevention.

As for Joe Cool, he said although he has preferred to just draw for much of his life, he is now intent upon developing his skills as a painter. He’s also raising his son and step-children and looking forward to joining his cousin Snoop Dogg for this coming weekend’s concerts in Salt Lake City and Denver.

“I’m not saying that I have recovered, but I haven’t used. I haven’t drank. I haven’t hurt anybody physically. I haven’t sold anything,” Joe Cool said.

“I’m not where I want to be, but I’m OK.”