

**1. What made you choose this piece for pulp MAG?**

I had just finished the painting and thought I'd send it your way to see if you wanted it. It's quite different than my previous cityscape painting you used in your most recent issue. It's not like I "know" it will be appropriate for your issue. It's just a shot in the dark.

**2. Is there anything in particular that you're proud of about this piece, or that you learned while creating it?**

Well this is a composition completely out of my head and not using a model, so it is a very different process than working from model. It was all intuitive and made up as I went along. I had wanted to do a cubist type painting for sometime and finally got around to it. As far as learning something I'd say that once you start something like this you just have to keep it in the air like you're juggling and don't let the balls fall until you get down the basic structure. Then you can go back in and add, change, fine tune, the shapes and color.

**3. Where did your inspiration for this piece come from? What is the piece's "story"?**

It's called Guitarism: guitar + cubist = the title. So the inspiration is the guitar's shape which bears the resemblance to a woman's curves and this musical instrument has been a part of my life. I used to play guitar a lot. I repeat its shape and portions of it in different ways throughout the painting. I also add a connecting lattice work supporting the foreground composition.

**4. What messages/themes do you want viewers to pull from this piece?**

I want viewers to feel the painting. Anything visceral, emotional, that happens in the viewer when they look at it is what I'm after. The rough surface, which is very evident when you see the painting up close, is caused because it is a re-painting over a previous work. I use gesso or acrylic paint to cover over the previous painting and this creates a very rough surface texture. Painting on this type of surface can be challenging to create shapes you want because you are sometimes hampered by the jagged surface, but that also leads to unexpected creative results and that can be exciting for the artist.

**5. The style of "Guitarism" is reminiscent of stain glass art and uses window-like images—why is that?**

That's because of the lattice work which is also filled in with color. Some shapes mirror the guitar, others stand alone. Yes, it has a stained glass look like many of the stained glasses in European churches which have a long history of art and expression, mostly in a religious theme, but still with a predominantly artistic motif.

**6. What does your creative process or practice usually look like?**

I start with an image I like. In the case of this painting, it was an image in my head. Then I did a quick pencil sketch to decide basic shapes. Then it was mixing some, what us painters call, mud. It's usually a very dark brown, black or gray and then sketching the basic shapes on the canvas. If I think I've got that right, then I bring the color to the canvas. Usually I work randomly. Sometimes with whatever paint I have left on my palette and force myself to mix it and use that up first. This can lead to some unexpected color combinations—good. I try to adapt and improvise in the moment.

**7. What sorts of things inspire you?**

Music and writing are high on my list of inspirations.

**8. How long have you been creative?**

Since I was a child. Creating is more important to me than anything else.

**9. Have you ever been published before? Where can we find your work?**

Yes. Many times. You can find more of my work by doing an internet search: Allen Forrest + art , then click the images tab and you'll find paintings, drawings, even cartoons. Sometimes they are magazine covers, sometimes illustrations for writers and poets.

**10. Do you plan on continuing your creative pursuits into the future? If so, what does the next project look like for you?**

I will keep cranking out more: paintings, drawings, cartoons—and I also work as an actor on occasion. You can see some clips from my latest role here:

[https://media.castingnetworks.com/cn-hot/video/upload/fl\\_attachment:download/56ba3e52-4ba9-11ef-9de7-816bbb66d529.mp4](https://media.castingnetworks.com/cn-hot/video/upload/fl_attachment:download/56ba3e52-4ba9-11ef-9de7-816bbb66d529.mp4)

My next project: currently I am tackling (for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time) a portrait of the French novelist Louis Ferdinand Celine. Getting a good resemblance is challenging. Wish me luck.