

Jim Banks

jimbanksartist.com

Artist's Biography

Jim's *Tangles & Knots* are the result of a journey from pre-literate attempts at writing, through restless doodling, and through the study of *The Book of Kells* and actual knots. Jim lives in Cambridge, MA., but was born and raised in Southern California. He did not grow up with art, but discovered it when he transferred to Bard College in New York after two years at UCLA studying psych/math. He graduated from Bard with a BA focused on sculpture.

Jim moved around a bit after college. In Hawaii, Brooklyn, San Antonio, and Memphis he actually had addresses. He also made his art and showed it. However, after his son was born and said, "Feed me, Daddy," Jim spent over a decade pursuing a career in corporate finance until he realized his heart wasn't in it, and he came back to art like a refugee.

Since moving to the Boston area in 2001, Jim has shown his work in several shows, including winning *Best 3-D* piece in the Cambridge Art Assn's National Prize Show in 2015.

Finally, Jim recently became a core member of Fountain Street.

Artist's Statement

I started scribbling when I was 4 or 5 years old, before I could read or write. I pretended I was some sort of businessman writing letters for his business, so my scribbles were not totally random and they had a point – to convey content. Information.

Much later, like 15 years later, I consciously made script-like, "language" scribbles, both horizontally and vertically. I even translated a few into steel while a student at Bard. I was attracted to the intricate weavings in ink of illuminated manuscripts, especially *The Book of Kells*. Contemporary artists who used squiggles, like Jasper Johns, gave me the freedom to pursue my own squiggles more.

One day in some sort of boring meeting I did what I would consider a *random* scribble. It was more spacious – not the usual horizontal or vertical "language" scribbles of before. Then I did something I'd not done before – I doubled the line, giving it volume. When lines crossed, I modeled the line to go over or under the other line. Over-under-over-under. I established rules of logic in my drawings. Until I began incorporating real knots, for you cannot make a real knot by alternating overs and unders.

But that's the science of it all, and though I still establish logic and rules to govern the drawings, I violate them regularly.