

Common Sense with RASMI GAMBLE

"MUSIC EXPRESSES THAT WHICH CANNOT BE PUT INTO WORDS AND THAT WHICH CANNOT REMAIN SILENT."
- VICTOR HUGO

Rasmi Gamble
Reviewer

"Basquiat with a paintbrush."
A few weeks back, I wrote this in an article about Jimi Hendrix.

For those who aren't familiar with this name, Jean Michel Basquiat is perhaps one of the most important names in American Modern Art History.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y. he was a major force on the American art scene during the 80s.

He originally gained notoriety for his graffiti tag "SAMO," done with friend Al Diaz.

The two would write all kinds of mysterious, yet thought-provoking quotes all over New York City, such as "SAMO AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO MINDWASH," or "PLUSH SAFE HE THINK."

Basquiat wanted to be remembered for more than just being a graffiti artist; he admired artists Cy Twombly, Franz Kline and Jean Dubuffet.

He incorporated elements from his Puerto Rican, Haitian and African background in his work.

Basquiat first received national attention in 1982, when artist Rene Ricard published an article "The Radiant Child," in

Artform Magazine.
Basquiat's life was filled with extreme paranoia stemming from drug use. Basquiat was suspicious of others stealing his work, and of art dealers taking unfinished work from his studio.

Basquiat had exhibitions all over the world, from New York to Paris, including the prestigious Kestner-Gesellschaft Museum in Hannover (where he was the youngest artist to ever be on exhibition).

In the mid-80s, he befriended artist Andy Warhol. The two collaborated on several pieces, and remained close until Warhol's death in 1987.

On October 12, 1988, Jean Michel Basquiat died of a drug overdose.

His art has been criticized by many critics for being too "childish" or "primitive," but that's what makes him stand out from many other artists.

Basquiat constructed his art the way he saw life: simply.

There's a movie about his life, titled "Basquiat," starring Jeffrey Wright as Basquiat, Benicio Del Toro as Al Diaz and David Bowie as Andy Warhol.

My favorite Basquiat piece is entitled "Horn Players;" it features drawings of Dizzy Gillespie, with Charlie Parker's name being crossed out, and tons of other



Photo courtesy of <http://www.google.com>
I'm out, Peace.

random words.
It challenges the mind, exactly what art is intended to accomplish.
DANGER DOOM, DANGER DOOM,
DANGER DOOM ...

Contact Rasmi Gamble at
pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

On Stage

Friday, Oct. 14
Drama club
7 p.m.
Trotter Community
Center, Hester Park

Friday, Oct. 21
Juvenilia
7 p.m.
Arts Council Theatre,
Winton-Salem

Thursday, Oct. 27
Fall Stuff: Student
run plays
3:30 p.m.
Greensboro College

Friday, Oct. 28
Mrrvin's Room
7:30 p.m.
Wake Forest
University, Winston-
Salem
\$5-\$12