

The Olympism Art Genre

On July 26th, 2024 just hours before the Paris 2024 Olympic Games opening ceremony, a new “Olympism” art genre was [unveiled on CNN](#) 100 years after the first Paris Olympic games and 150 years after the first Impressionism exhibition in Paris.

The “Olympism” art genre, blends Olympic values and ideals with artistic concepts and techniques. The two elements that visually define the “Olympism” art genre are **repetition** of objects, lines and shapes within the artwork and the **sports and Olympic & Paralympic themed and inspired subject matter** of the artworks.

Timing is also a very unique element of the “Olympism” art genre, as to how, when, where, and why a piece or series of works are created.

Artwork created in this this new genre also incorporate components that may or may not be visible in the artist’s final work.



The “Olympism” art genre, also known as “Olympicism”, blends the Olympic values and ideals of *Friendship, Respect & Excellence* with artistic concepts and techniques. Olympism’s artistic influences and inspirations include the French Impressionism and Fauvism movements, Futurism, Op Art, George Seurat’s and Paul Signac’s Pointillism and Jackson Pollock’s Action Drip painting techniques and Eadweard Muybridge’s experimental photographic sequences.

There are two key visual elements of the “Olympism” art genre. The first, is the use of *repetition* of objects, lines and shapes within the artwork and artwork series as a way to visually express and symbolically reference the time, effort and repetitious nature required by Olympic and Paralympic athletes to succeed in their competitive athletic careers.

The second visual element of the “Olympism” art genre is the sports and Olympic & Paralympic - themed and inspired subject matter of the artwork, which includes: Olympic & Paralympic athletes, historical sporting moments, historical sports figures, sports, sporting venues, sports and exercise equipment, logos and national flags.

Artwork created in the Olympism art genre also incorporate components that may or may not be visible in the artist’s final work. The Olympic values of *Friendship, Respect & Excellence* are embraced during the creative process from beginning to end. It could manifest itself quite literally as actual words written down on the paper or canvas – see close up of image on page 3 of Baron Pierre de Coubertin - or it could be completely invisible – just contemplative reflective thoughts and a state of mind of the artist during the creative process.

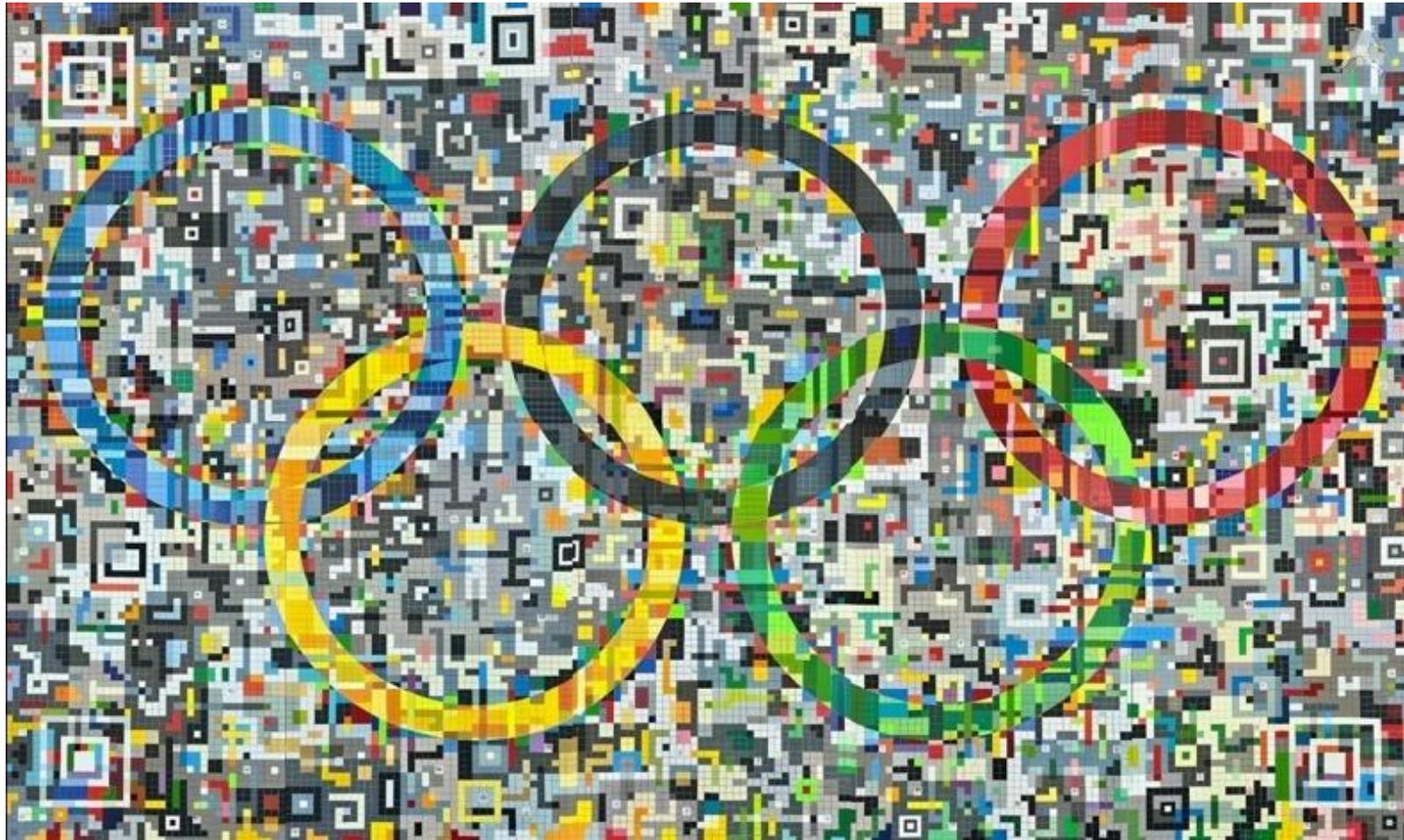
Timing is also a key element of the “Olympism” art genre, as to how, when, where, and why a piece or series of works were created and is something that the sport and art world have in common.

Olympism Art Genre Visual Examples and Explanations

The following visual examples help explain, describe and show what the “Olympism” art genre is.

1. **Logos** – The Olympic Rings (slides 5 & 6)
2. **Historical Figure(s)**: Pierre de Coubertin (slide 7)
3. **Separate & Connected**: 2022 T&F World Champs (slides 8 & 9)
4. **Series I – Same Medium** / charcoal (slide 10)
5. **Series II – Same Subject** / horses (slide 11)
6. **Series III – Same Location** / UCLA (slide 12)
7. **Community Collaborations**: 2018 Olympic Art Project (slide 13,14 &15)
8. **Time Lapse – Capturing the Process**: 2020/1 Olympic Art Project (slide 16)
9. **Olympians & Olympic Sports** (slide 17)
10. **Connecting Sequences Frame by Frame**: Javelin & Long Jump (slide 18)
11. **National Flags** – Jamaican & American Flags (slide 19)
12. **Historical Event(s)** - Asafa Powell 100m World Record of 9.77 seconds (slide 19), Kirsty Coventry 2025 IOC President / first African and first women president (slide 20)
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17. **Sports and Exercise Equipment** (slide 27)
18. **Olympic Outfits** (slide 28)

Olympism Art Genre Examples:



3 main influences / inspirations for this piece



The Olympic Rings



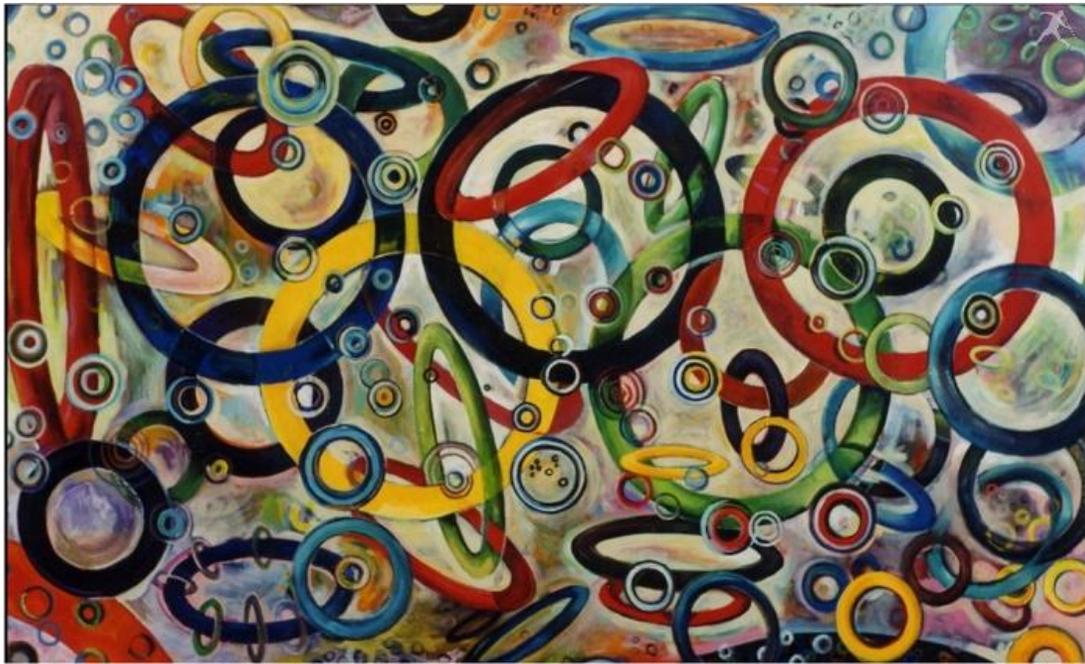
Pointillism



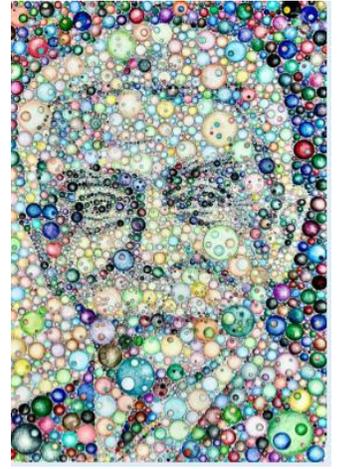
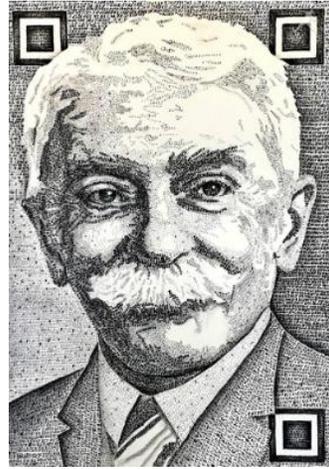
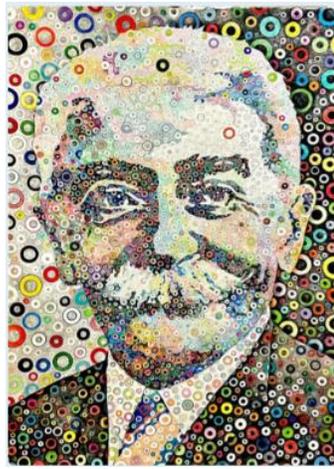
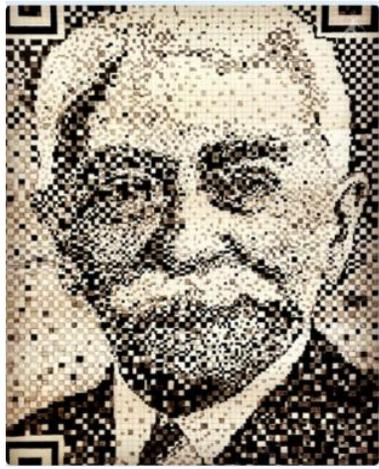
QR codes

This massive 60" x 100", 24,000-piece paper collage is made up of 10 panels created to celebrate the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and the 25-year anniversary of Roald Bradstock's first Olympic Rings painting ([2016 CNN interview](#)). In this piece the Olympic Rings logo is created using pieces of colored paper - a tribute to French artists George Braque - recognized as the father of collage (along with Picasso) - and Matisse who is/was also known for his paper collages. The pixelated style is inspired by George Seurat's and Paul Signac's revolutionary pointillism technique and today's modern day QR codes. But here, rather than dots of colored paint or black and white digital squares there are squares of colored paper.

*A new collage technique was used to create this piece – no glue, just tape – about 1200 feet of it!



[Roald Bradstock | The Olympic Rings Series](#)

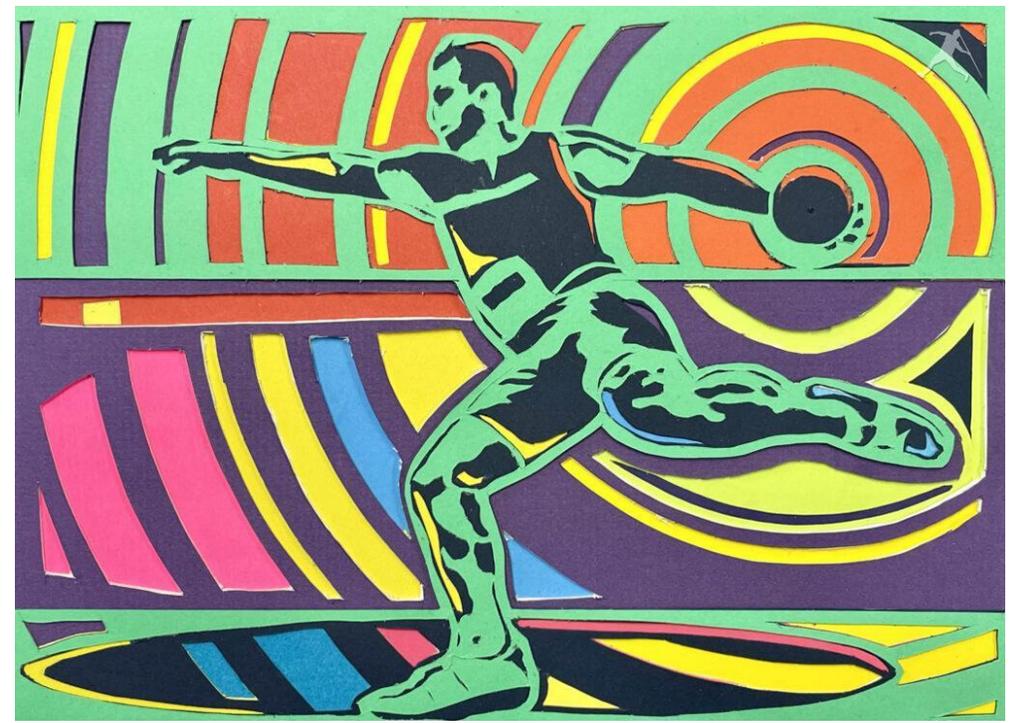


This series on the founder of the modern Olympic Games - Baron Pierre de Coubertin - use the same historic photograph of him at the start, but then use a variety of mediums - acrylic paint, pen & ink, colored paper & colored pencil, ink on paper, paper collage and pencil, pen - and also different techniques and styles - lines and shapes, squares, circles, words and spheres – to distort and abstract the image and create a variety of visual sensations.





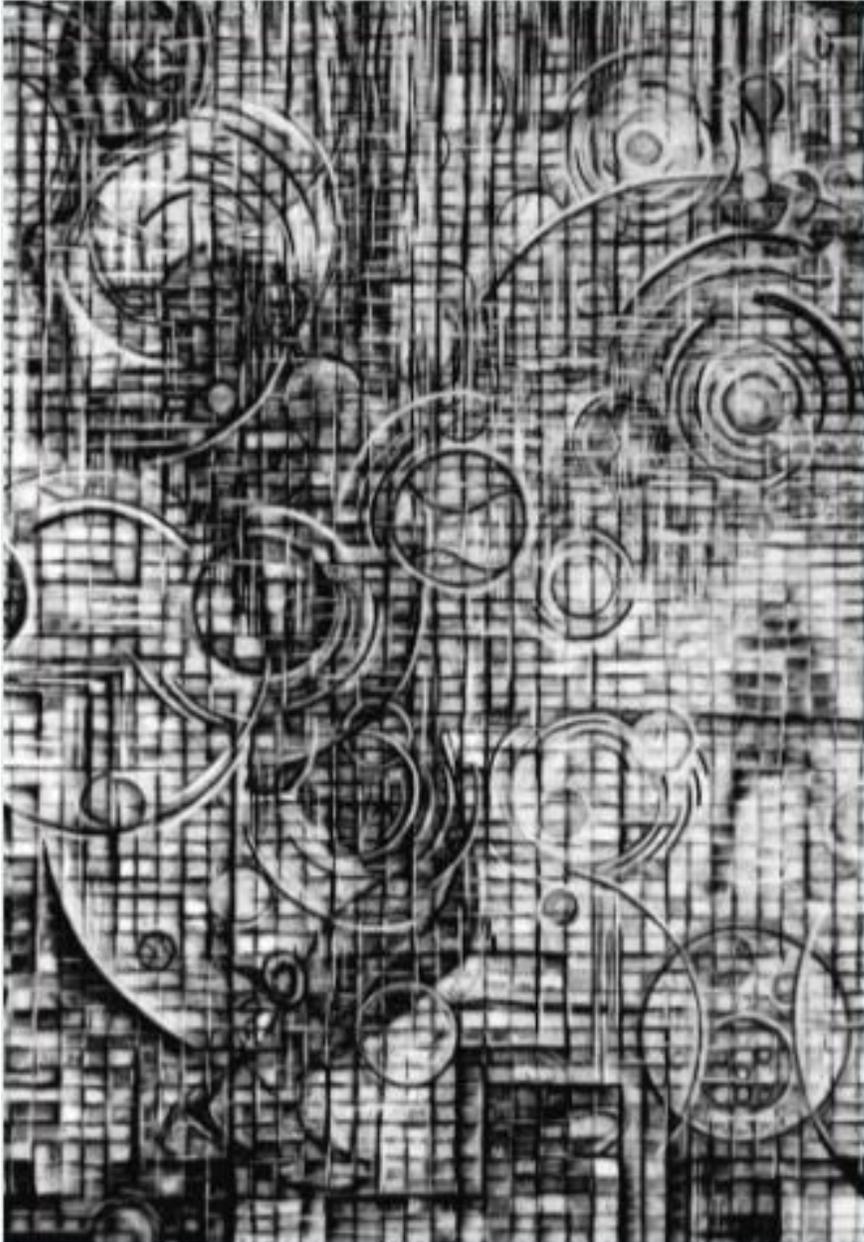
[Roald Bradstock | Separate and Connected](#)



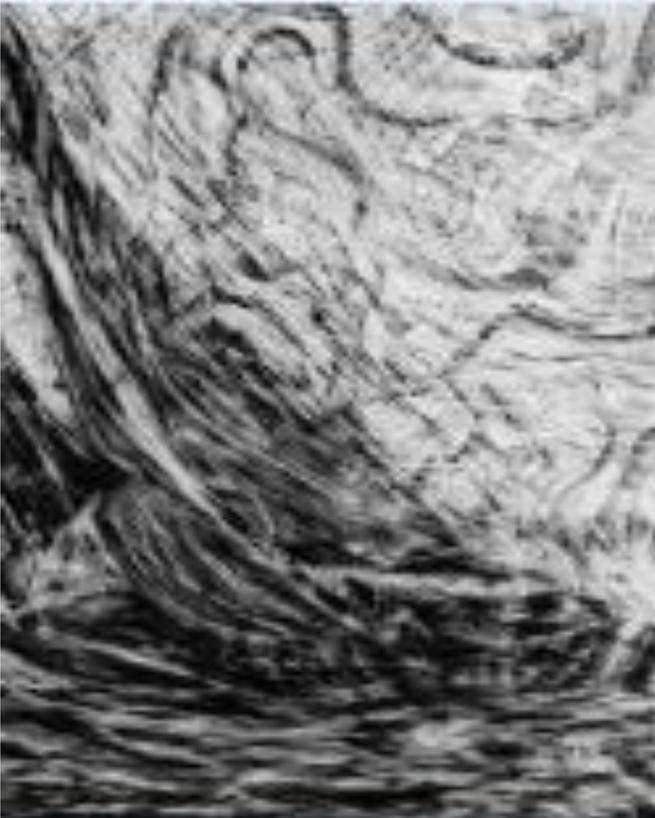
This piece – (on slide 8) is made up of 42 separate pieces of artwork that stand alone, but also connect into a larger collective work – exactly like track & field that has dozens of different events that are all included in the same sport – separate events but all part of one sport.

[Roald Bradstock | Separate and Connected](#)

Series I: Same Medium – Charcoal



[Roald Bradstock | The Charcoal Series](#)



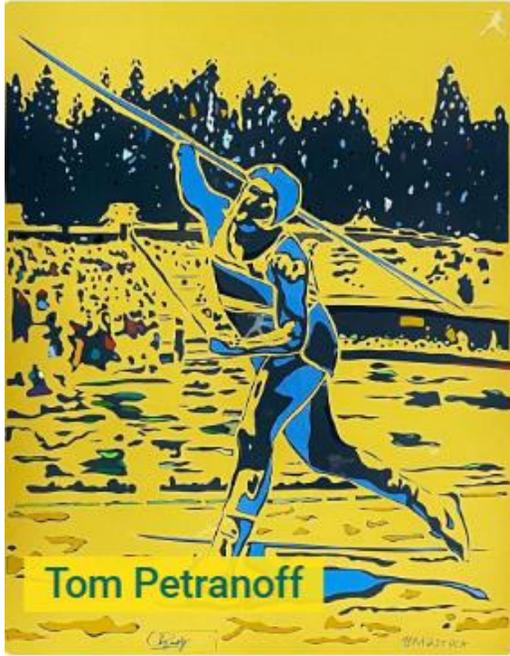
Series II: Same Subject – Horses



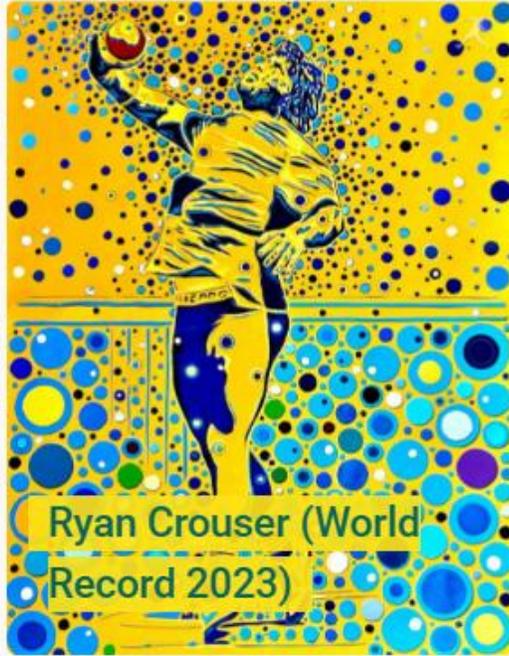
Roald Bradstock | Horsepower Series



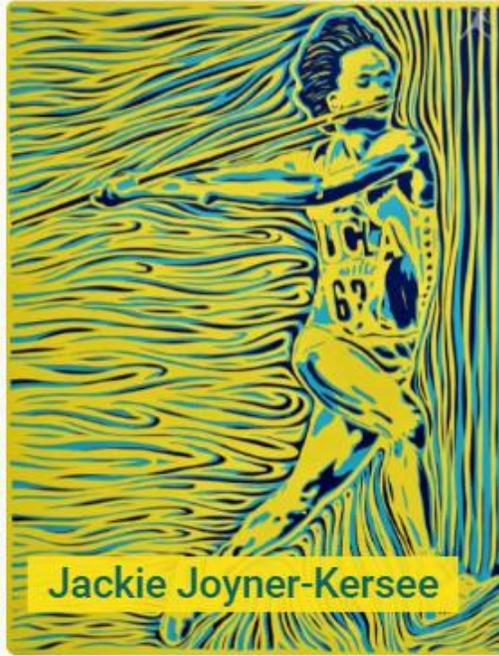
This series titled "Horsepower" depicts the equestrian sports of polo, horse racing and show jumping. Using different mediums - acrylic paint, oil pastels, plasticine and paper collage - and different repetitious lines, shapes and objects, led to a wide range of distorted and abstracted images.



Tom Petranoff



Ryan Crouser (World Record 2023)



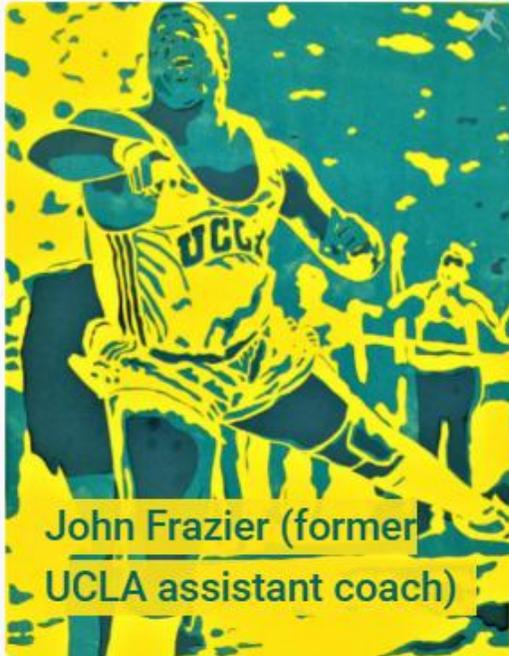
Jackie Joyner-Kersey



Jamie Nieto



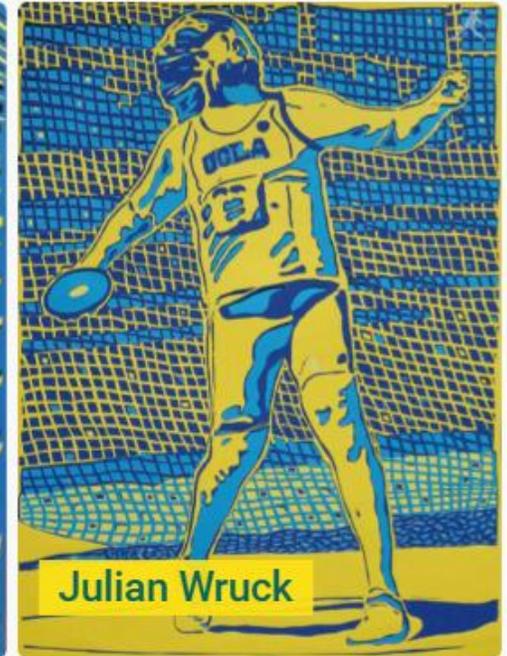
John Brenner



John Frazier (former UCLA assistant coach)



John Godina



Julian Wruck

Community Collaborations – Version 1

2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Collaboration Artist-in-Residence Project

This historic 15-panel painting was created by **112 Olympic athletes** during the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang. Some of the notable Olympians that contributed were International Olympic Committee (IOC) **President Thomas Bach**, 5-Time Olympian **HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco**, **World Olympians Association (WOA) President Joel Bouzou**. Additionally, two of Pierre de Coubertin's descendants – Alexandra and Diane de Coubertin - also contributed to the painting.

This piece is significant for two reasons:

- #1: It launched the IOC's Olympians Artist-in-Residency Program.
- #2: It is recognized as the "Official" beginning of the newly globally recognized Olympism Art Genre.

[Roald Bradstock | 2018 PyeongChang Olympic Games](#)



112 Olympic Signatures



112 Olympians Painting



IOC President Bach



Community Collaborations – Version #2 / Mental Health

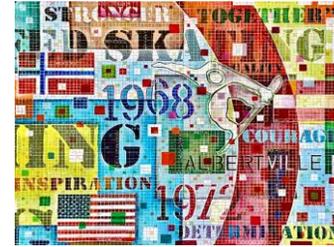


2024 California NFL Rehabilitation Mental Health Program

In early 2024 over a period of 10 days Bradstock worked with half a dozen (non-artist) professional football players going through rehabilitation. Embracing the Olympic values of **Friendship, Respect** and especially **Excellence** the athlete patients were tasked and challenged to step out of their comfort zone, work together as a team and create something excellent, something of quality, something unique – a community collaboration that would surprise them and others.

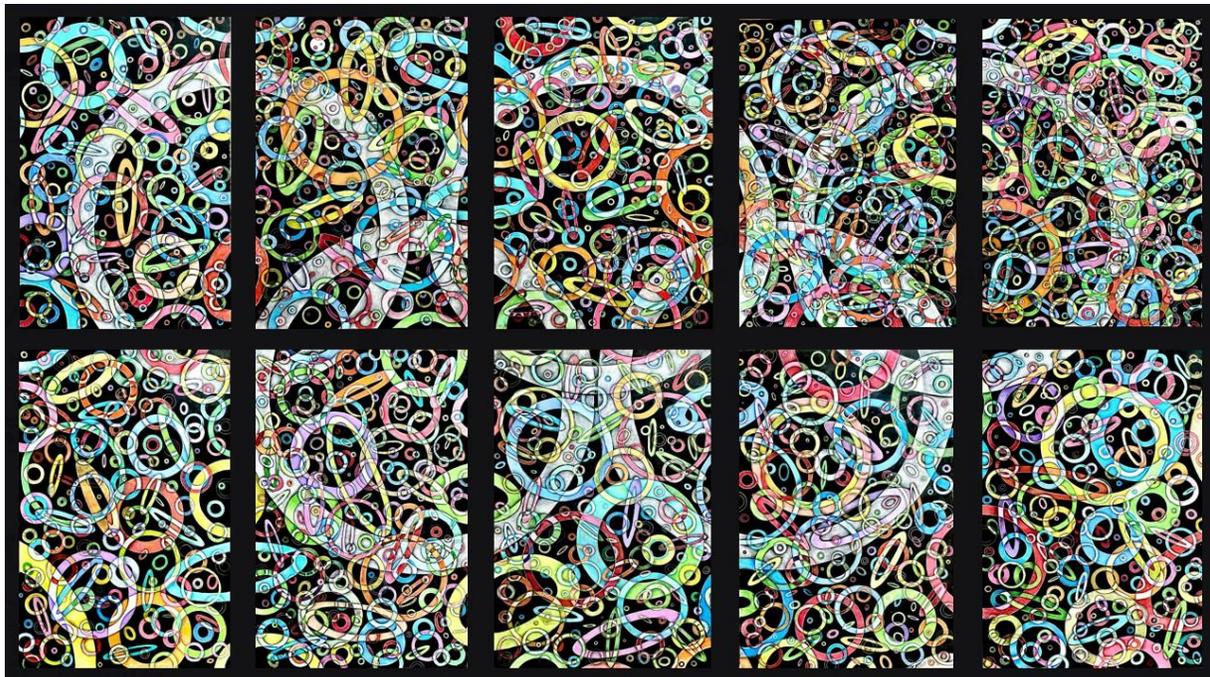
Over the 10-day program the athletes went from being distracted, disinterested and disengaged to talking, laughing and focused. The athletes and staff were stunned by the 2- football themed artworks that were created over the 10 days - just goes to show what is possible when we work together as a collective.

Community Collaboration(s) – Version #3 & #4



2025 Lake Placid Inaugural School Olympism Art Genre Educational Program

This 24-canvas panel acrylic painting called “Together” was created to celebrate the last and first 100 years of the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. It has all the winter sports depicted and written out along with all the dates (years) of the Games, the cities, the Olympic & Paralympic values and mottos and the names of the founders. It also has all the flags of the host nations and as a final step to complete the painting a 100 students from 6 High Schools in Lake Placid and the surrounding counties added their names and the names of 57 winter Olympian and Paralympians from the North Country onto/into the painting.

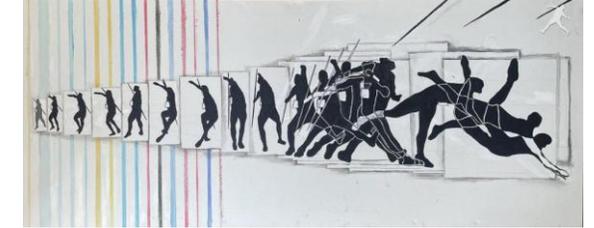
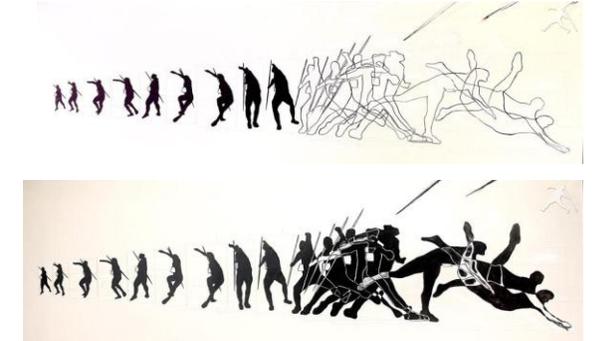


2025 “ArtPrize” Grand Rapids Inaugural Olympism Art Exhibition

This large 10-panel charcoal drawing using charcoal (burnt wood) on paper (made from wood) as the medium was an intentional choice to reference the 2025 LA wildfires, nature, and the environment. The idea was to create something positive from something negative (something burnt), sending a visual message of support through imagery. The symbolic 5-Ring Olympic logo is at the very core of this piece, with an additional 2028 rings of various sizes as a reference to the upcoming Olympic Paralympic Games in LA in 2028. The giant charcoal was **THE** featured piece of artwork in the world’s **FIRST** “Olympism Art Genre” exhibition at the massive 2025 ArtPrize festival in Grand Rapids where it was **THE** featured exhibition. During the 17-day festival over a 1000 people from the community contributed to the piece that embraces every element of the Olympism Art Genre.

Time-Lapse: Capturing the Process

Roald Bradstock | Time Lapse

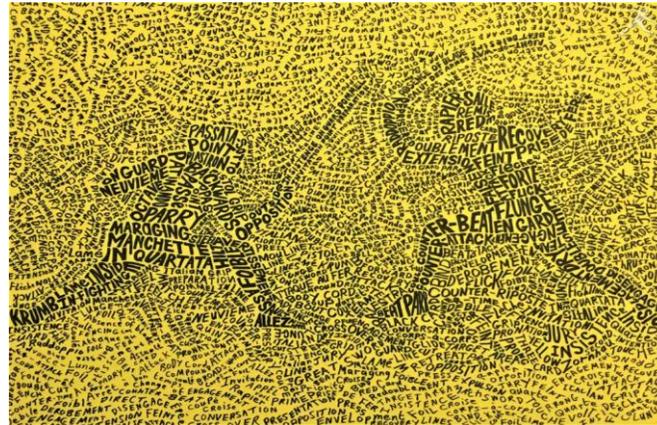


The inspiration of using Time-Lapse to reveal the process and turn a single stationary image into a changing, evolving image was inspired by the 8mm Jackson Pollock films that show his process as he created his "action" paintings using his paint dripping method.

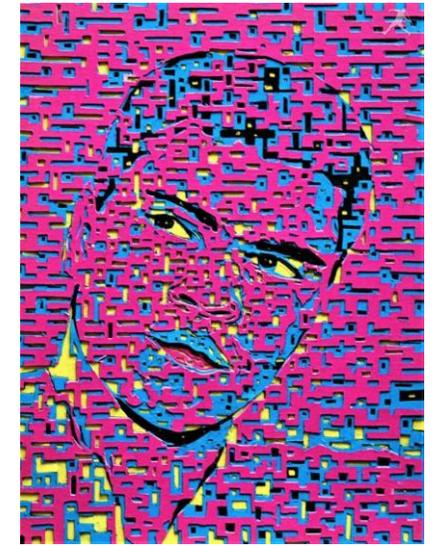
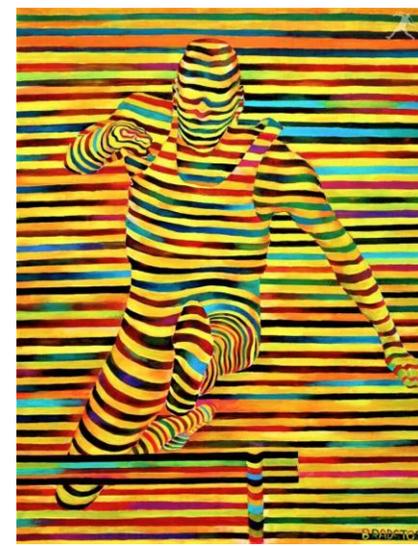




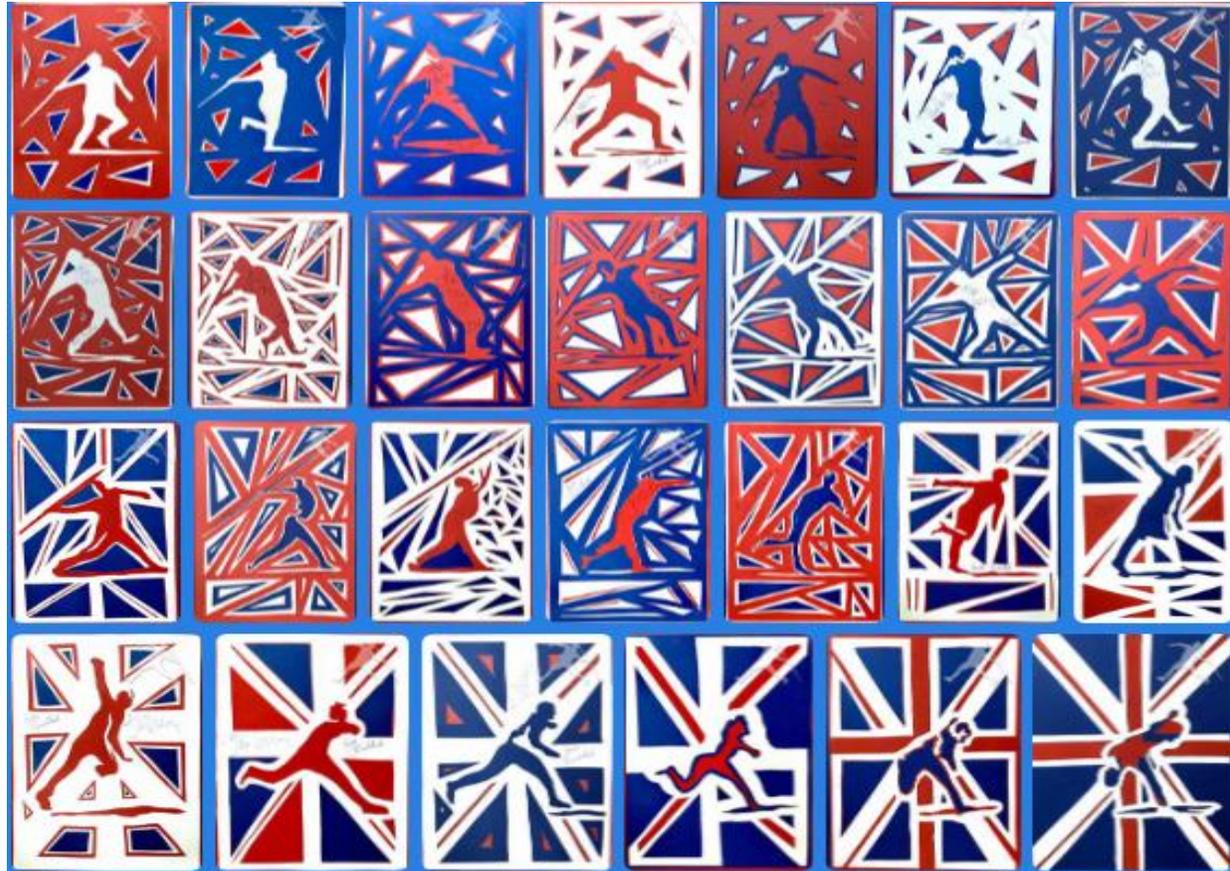
Olympians and Olympic Sports



[Roald Bradstock | Olympians](#)



Connecting Sequences – Frame by Frame



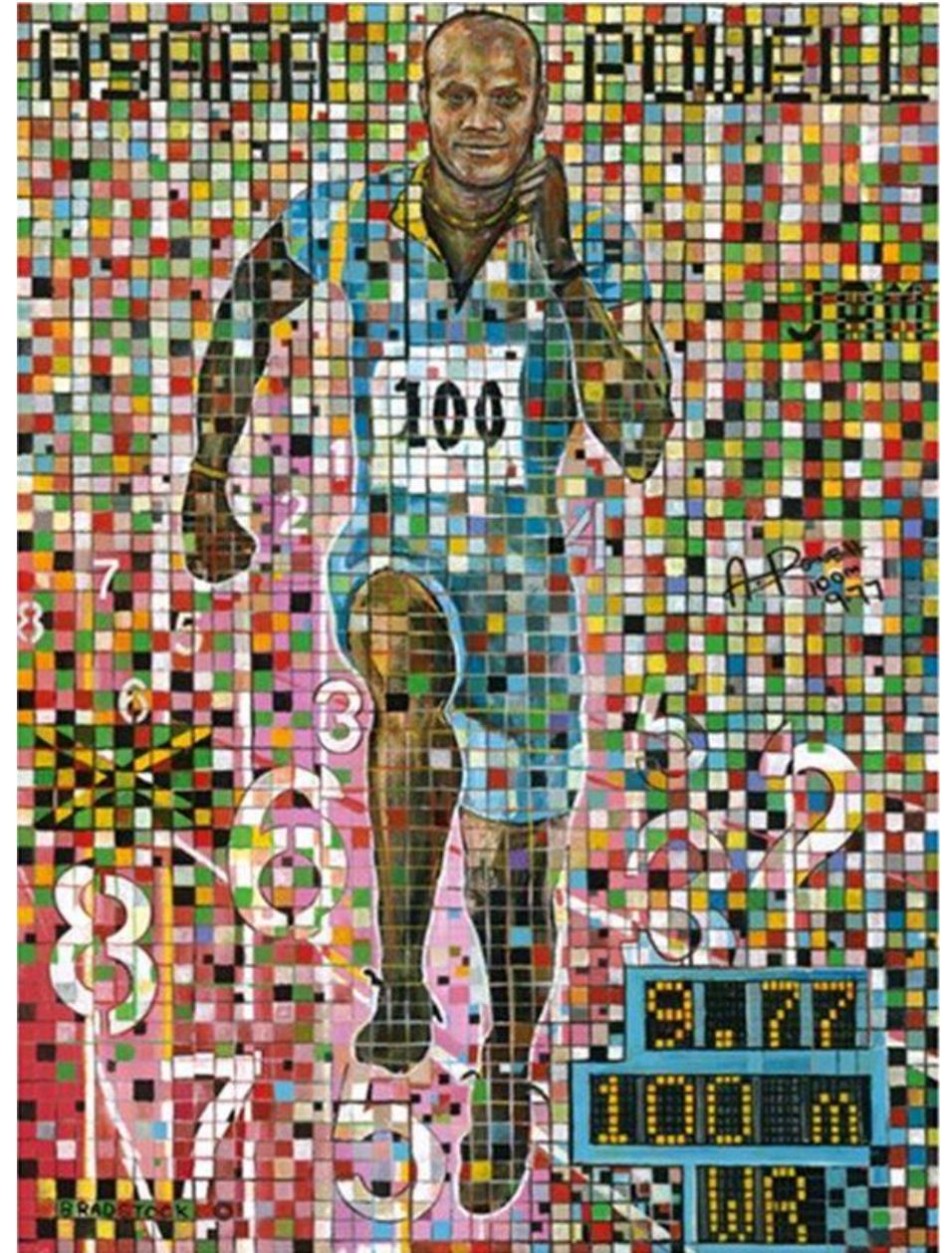
National Flags: Jamaica & America



In June 2005, Jamaican Asafa Powell set the first of two world records in the 100 m with a time of 9.77 seconds. Three years later in 2008 he set another World Record in the 100m with a time of 9.74 seconds.



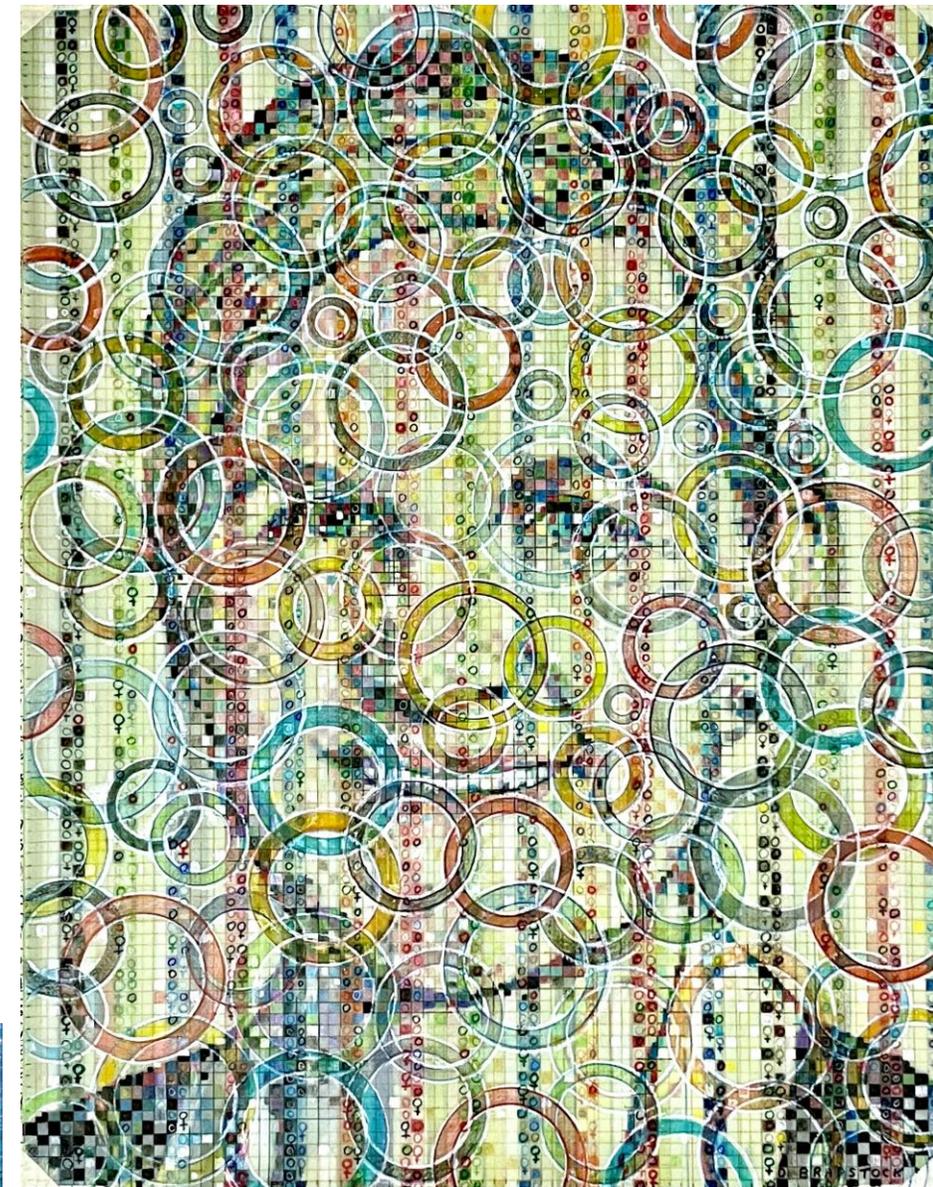
Historical Event: World Record



2025 Olympic History

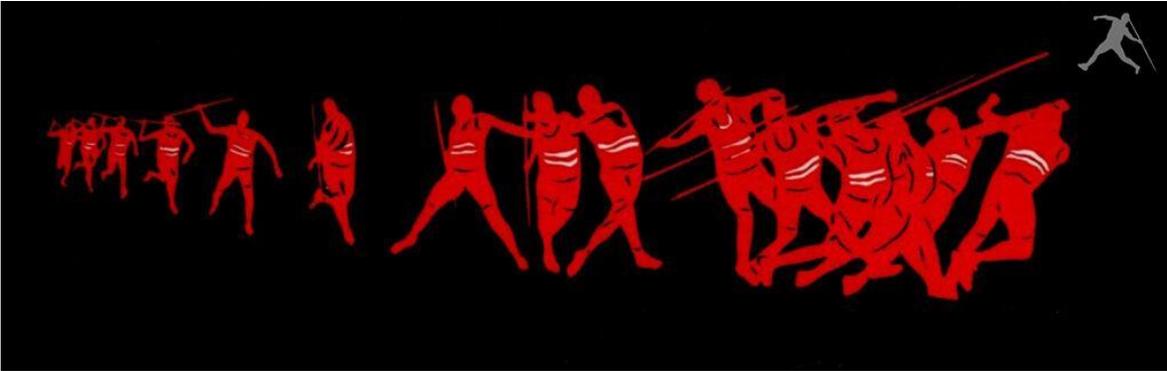
Kirsty Coventry

First Female IOC President
First African IOC President



To celebrate Kirsty Coventry's historic appointment, these 2 pieces were created fully embracing aspects of the Olympism Art Genre. The repetitious shapes in the pieces are in reference to the female gender symbol, the rings within the Olympic logo, the tiles and lane markings in swimming pools and air bubble in water which are all a reference to her Olympic swimming career.

Overlapping Sequences

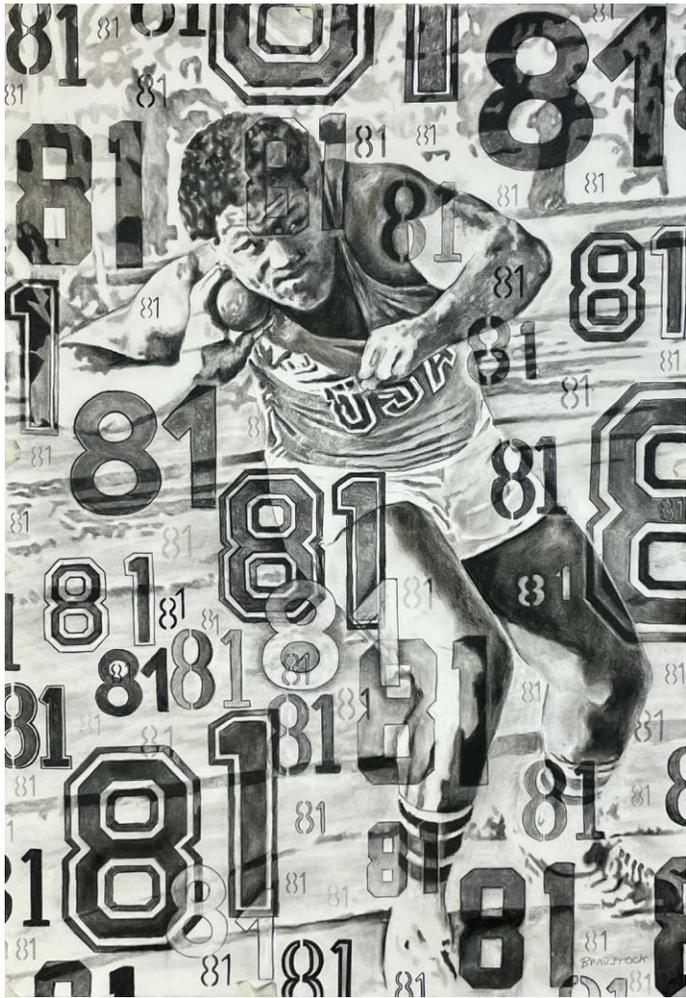


These overlapping sequence images - inspired by Eadweard Muybridge's revolutionary photographs – give a different perspective, understanding and appreciation of what an athletic performance looks like.

Educational / Instructional

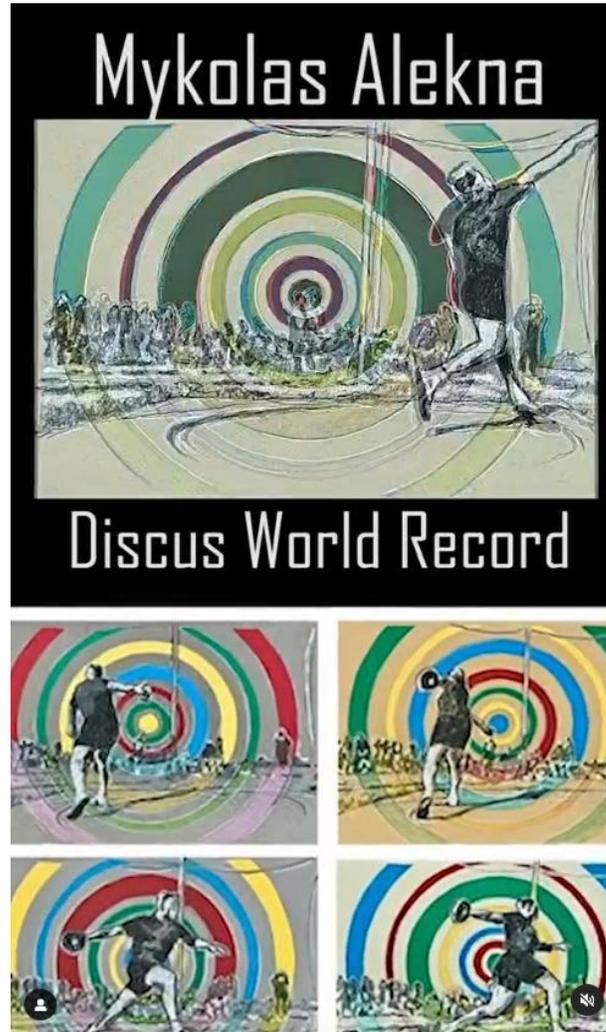


In the educational and instructional “Olympism” art genre the athlete can be abstracted and distorted to a degree in the artwork, but must be anatomically and biomechanically correct so as to help show and promote good technique.



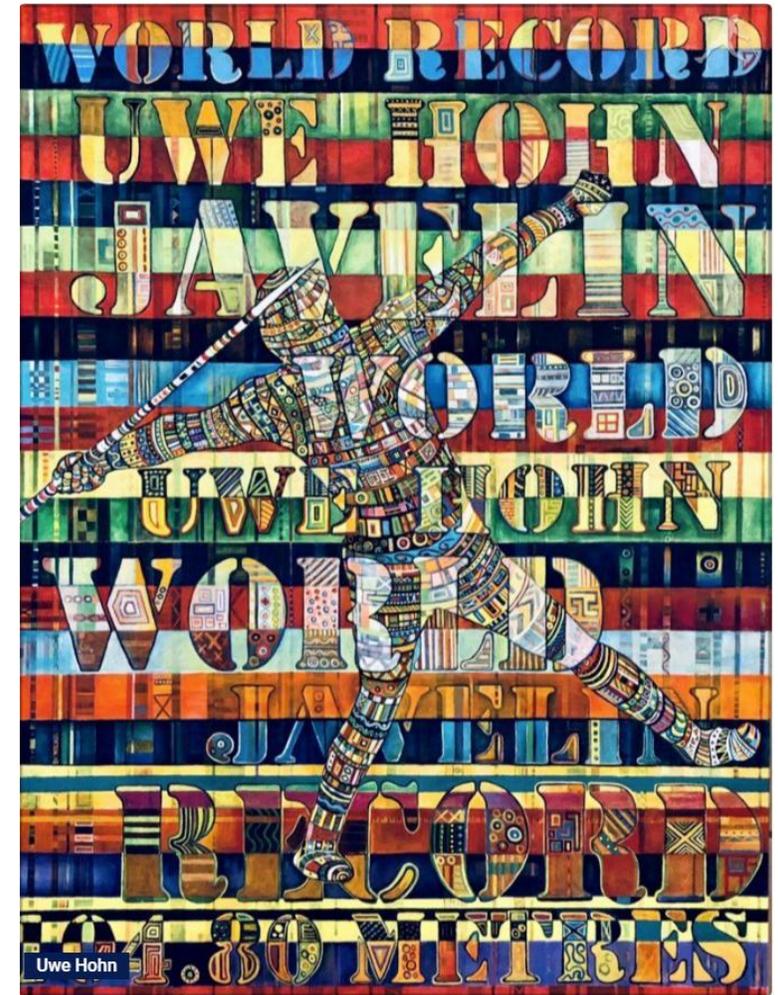
This piece was created to celebrate the 45th year anniversary of one of - if not THE - most incredible records ever! In 1979 on his very last throw, of his very last competition in high school, Michael Carter smashed his own shot-put high school record for the 5th time by an astonishing 4 ft, with a throw of 81ft 3.5". The record still stands today. Micheal, who was a college teammate (SMU) of Bradstock, is also the only Olympian to win an Olympic medal (silver /1984) and also play in the super bowl in the same year!
[YouTube Video Time Lapse of "81"](#)

Timing & Olympic Values



On April 14th 2024, one of the oldest World Records on the books – almost 40 years old -was broken by a 20-year-old. This video sequence, created using 25 paper collages, was made to celebrate Mykolas' remarkable achievement.

[Roald Bradstock \(@roaldbradstock\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)



July 20th 2024, was the 40th anniversary of East Germany's [Uwe Hohn's](#) incredible World Javelin Record of 104.80 meters – a record that will never be broken! Unfortunately, due to politics and then injury, Uwe never competed in the Olympics. Bradstock created this painting – fully embracing all the Olympic values of Excellence. Friendship. Respect.

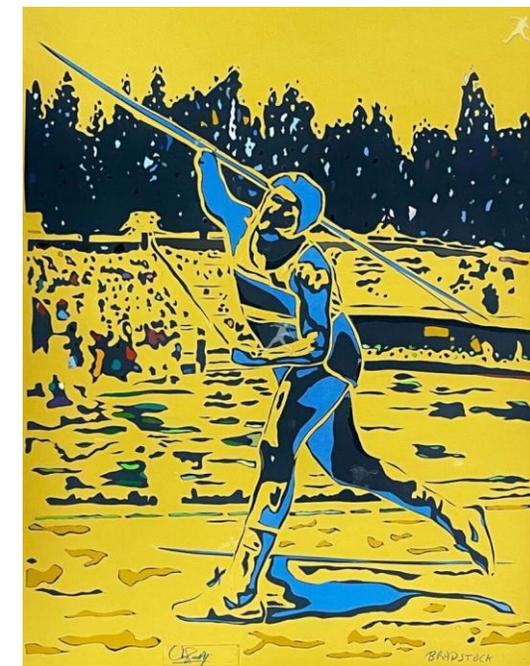
Uwe Hohn painting time Lapse video:
<https://youtu.be/dlarDy6hhOM>



May 15th, 2023 was the 40th anniversary of American Tom Petranoff's World javelin record of 99.72m. Bradstock created 6 pieces, in different mediums, to celebrate his former rival's accomplishment. Petranoff co-signed each piece of artwork as a gesture of **Friendship** and mutual **Respect**. The 6 co-signed artworks are a visual declaration and celebration and acknowledgment of athletic and artistic **Excellence**.

Before Petranoff co-signed Bradstock's artwork it was [unveiled to him on CNN](#).

Tom Petranoff page link: [Roald Bradstock | Tom Petranoff](#)





Some of the inspirations and influences for this piece



This piece was created as a tribute to celebrate Southern Methodist University's former Head Track & Field and Olympic coach Dave Wollman and his accomplishments while at SMU (Roald Bradstock's almatmater) and his induction into the schools Hall of Fame.

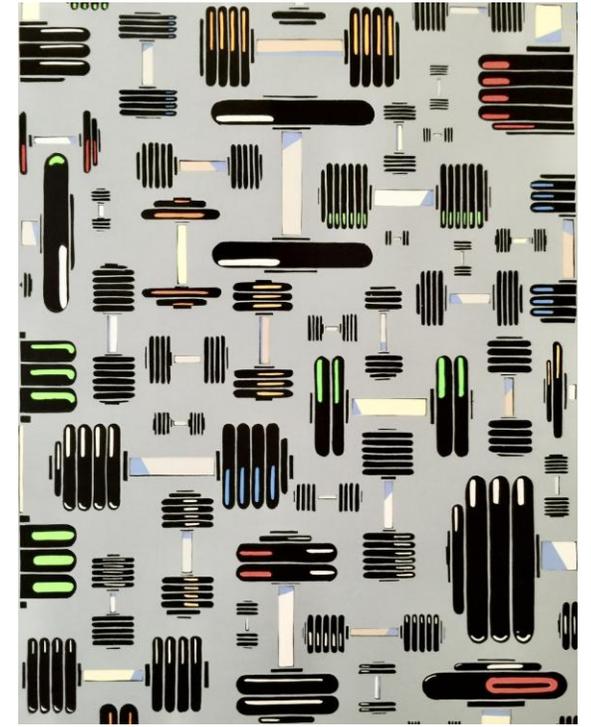
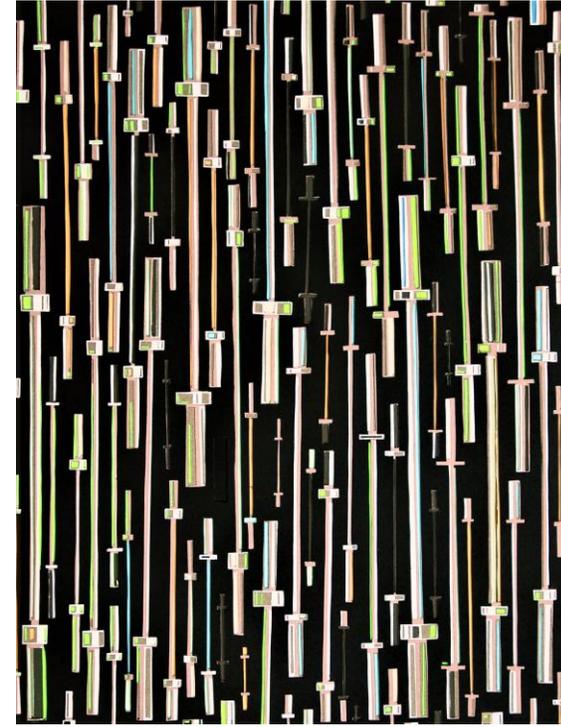
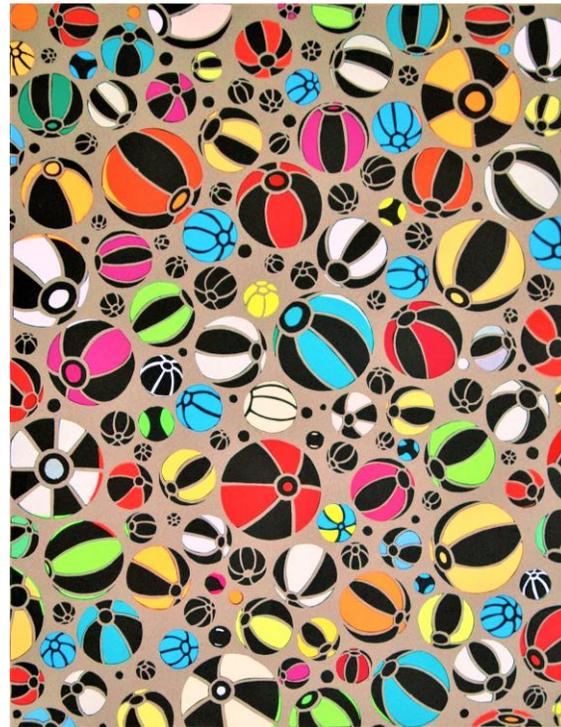
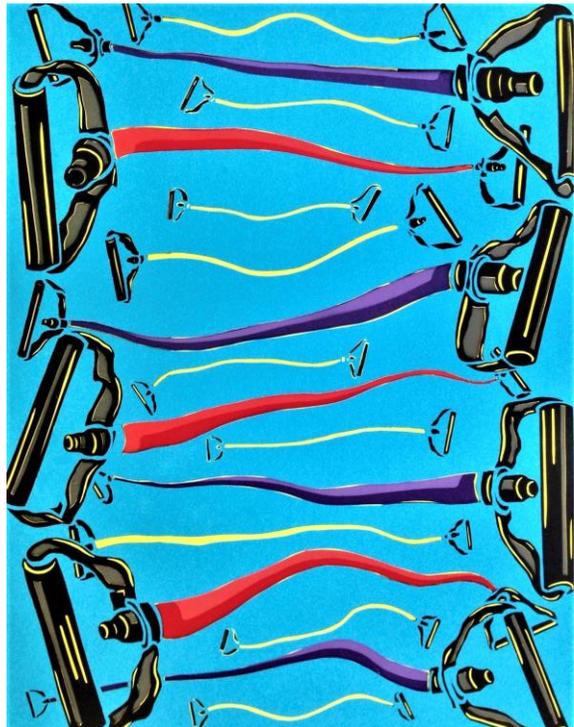
Olympic Venues- Lake Placid



The inspiration for this painting was the Olympic Stadium in Lake Placid, NY where the US Ice hockey team won Olympic Gold when they beat the Soviet Union at the 1980 Winter Olympic games. The overall design in this piece is an overhead view of the ice hockey rink and spectator seats. In the distance, buried in the ice, are other Olympic venues in Lake Placid including the Olympic Center, the speed skating oval, the bobsled and skeleton track and trails at Mount Van Hoevenberg and the ski jumps at the Olympic Jumping Complex and Whiteface Mountain.

Sports and Exercise Equipment

[Roald Bradstock | Fitness Art](#)



Olympic Outfits



At the 2004, 2008 and 2012 Olympic Trials, Bradstock competed in specially designed hand painted outfits - turning the javelin runway into a fashion runway, and turning his athletic performance into performance art.



[Roald Bradstock - July 4th, 2008 - 7th Olympic Trials - NBC - YouTube](#)



[Roald Bradstock's javelin throw and BBC interview at the 2012 UK Olympic Trials. \(youtube.com\)](#)



[Roald Bradstock's World Record at the 2012 UK Olympic Trials: M50 WR 72.78m / 800g \(youtube.com\)](#)



Art of the Olympians



Roald Bradstock