



Resident of Mission, Kansas and native of Des Moines, Iowa, artist **John Hayes** received his Bachelor of Art degree from the University of Iowa, School of Art and Art History, in 1984.

His humorous and sometimes edgy drawings and canvases have shown locally and in Wichita, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Tucson, and points beyond.

"I unapologetically admit that I love cartoons, always have, always will. Vintage Hollywood cartoons, cartoons in print from the last century, all the way up to the present. And I have my favorite fine artists from the same time periods, my favorite graphic artists, as well as my favorite musicians, my favorite performers. I guess you could say I just love Americana starting around 1900, I find the past 100+ years of American history and culture fascinating and endearing. Is it possible to combine my favorite elements of my country's recent heritage into works of art fused with my own humorous takes on life as we know it? I always set to find out. I'm about injecting doses of sizzle and sensuality but never overt sex, I won't say my humor is subtle but I sure like connecting with an audience. Bright, unexpected color and design elements help sell the subject I'm discussing, which is often the sexy cocktail dress-wearing redheads cutting loose after hours with a martini. I put the women in dreamlike environments, always out of harm's way but making sure they're having a good time. I'm asked frequently if the redhead is a particular person from my past, or even a current muse. The answer is, no. I've never dated a redhead, but the bright color sure makes for an arresting visual element and serves as a compositional anchor to all the crazy stuff going on around it. The pieces with the heartbreaking blondes...yeah, those are a lot more personal, you don't want to hear about the painful breakup connected to those, but I'm guessing the images speak for themselves. At least I hope they do, that was my intent going in."

