

IAN KURTIS CRIST

(b. 1992, Anchorage, Alaska, USA)
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

Ian Kurtis Crist is an Alaskan-raised, Los Angeles-based painter whose work channels the austere isolation of his frontier upbringing into contemporary scenes of quiet intensity. Often working on raw, hand-sewn canvas, Crist paints solemn, unadorned figures that evoke a sense of spiritual exile. His compositions are stripped down yet symbolically rich, drawing heavily from religious iconography while maintaining a raw, contemporary edge. The result is a body of work that explores themes of ostracism and interiority with both restraint and reverence.

Following recent shows in Seattle, Los Angeles, and New York, the work was named "Best in Fair" at the *Spring Break Art Show* during September 2026 Armory week. Writing in the *Wall Street Journal*, Brian P. Kelly called it "especially arresting," observing how the "scenes of violence complicate the traditional right-wrong divide."

PAINTING

Solo Exhibitions

2022 Beggar in the Heart, Broker in the Mind, The Valley Gallery, Seattle, WA

Two-Person Exhibitions

- 2026 Wilder & Wilder Pirouettes feat. Ian Kurtis Crist and Melissa Messer
Curated by Colleen Barry at Spring Break Art Show, New York, NY
- 2024 Merry-Go-Round of Pleasure & Understanding feat. Ian Kurtis Crist and Melissa Messer, Koplin Del Rio, Seattle, WA

Group Exhibitions

- 2026 For Rest Inaugural Opening, curated by Ari Salka and Sachi Reitig, Los Angeles, CA
- 2025 Form Over Function, curated by Sarah Hurt, Seattle Art Source, Seattle, WA
- 2024 Form Over Function, curated by Sarah Hurt, Seattle Art Source, Seattle, WA
- 2023 North Wall Introducing, curated by Jeremy Buben, The Hideout, Seattle, WA
Nice Café, curated by Meghan Trainor, M. Rosetta Hunter Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2022 Scott Smith & Ian Kurtis Crist, curated by Scott Smith, The Hi Spot, Seattle, WA
- 2021 Scott Smith & Ian Kurtis Crist, curated by Scott Smith, The Hi Spot, Seattle, WA

PRESS / FEATURES

The Wall Street Journal

<https://www.wsj.com/arts-culture/fine-art/the-best-work-at-spring-break-art-show-airdigital-da886db6>

Modern Age Painting

<https://modernagepainting.substack.com/p/the-problem-with-trying-too-hard>

The Fold

<https://thefoldmag.com/arts-culture/tight-connections>

The Stranger

<https://www.thestranger.com/strangersuggests/2024/01/31/79366032/stranger-suggests-personal-problemsjamil-a-woods-tet-in-seattle-vietnamese-lunar-new-year-space-is-the-place>