

Jason Salavon Taps into the Simpsons and Wikipedia to Explore our Changing Digital Landscape

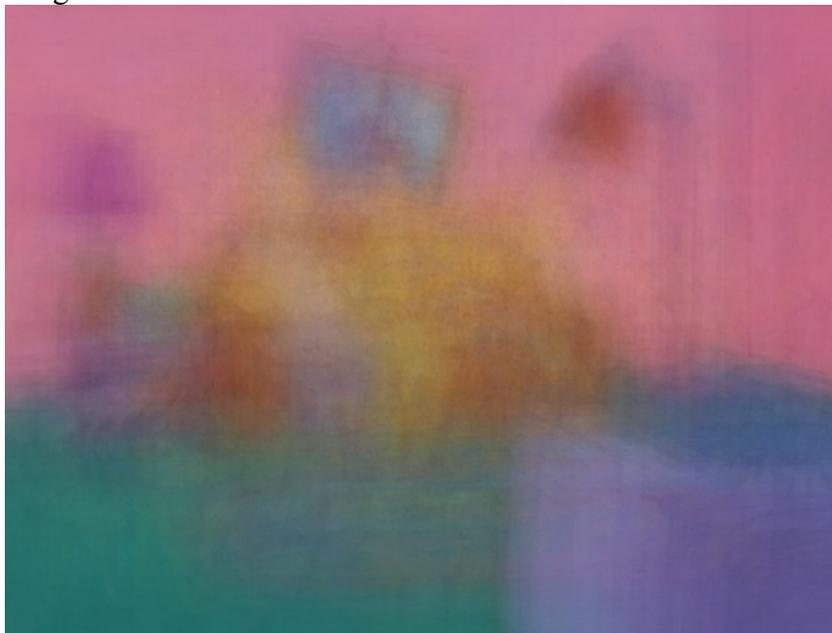
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Jason Salavon *All the Ways (The Simpsons)*, 2016 / *Wallpaper*, 2016 Mark Moore Gallery

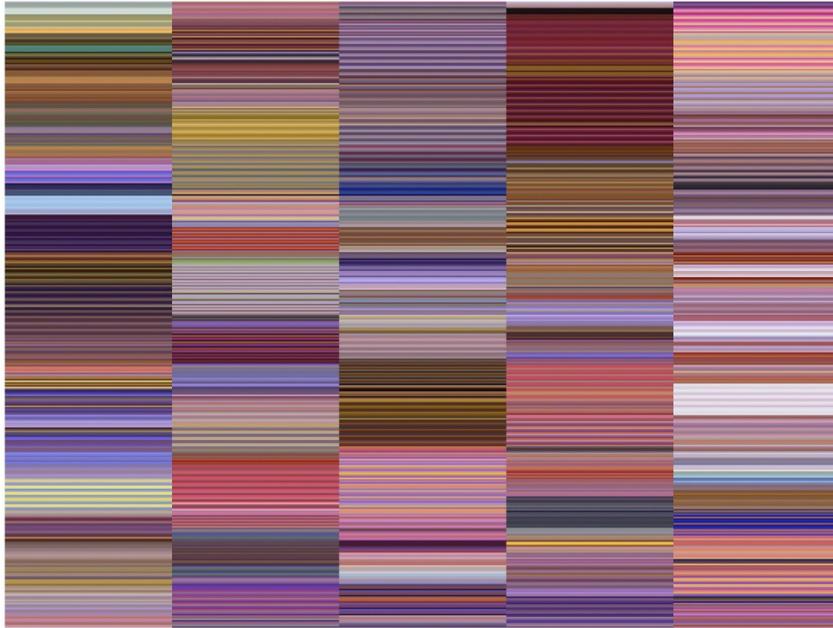
If the latest works by Jason Salavon remind you of a broken computer monitor or a scrambled TV screen when the cable is out, you've already picked up on a few of the artist's primary interests: pop culture, consumerism, and human interaction with digital images.



Jason Salavon *All the Ways (Couch Gag)*, 2016 Mark Moore Gallery

If you look a bit closer at *All the Ways (Couch Gag)* (2016), you'll recognize a scene familiar to anyone who has been in front of a TV in the past 20 years: Matt Groening's

yellow animated family seated on their living room couch in the opening sequence of *The Simpsons*. But Salavon manipulates the image to such an extent that it becomes abstract and watercolor-like, its saturated colors softened and muted. The piece complements the other subtly mind-bending artworks featured in “All the Ways,” Salavon’s third solo show at Mark Moore Gallery in Culver City, California.



Jason Salavon *The End 4, 2016 / Chalkboard Gag, Episode 550 Mr. Plow, 2016* Mark Moore Gallery

Other works in the show also riff on *The Simpsons*, such as the visually busy, nearly indecipherable *The End 3, 2016 / Chalkboard Gag, Episode 550 Mr. Plow (2016)*. Meanwhile, the delicately beautiful *All the Ways (The Simpsons), 2016 / Wallpaper (2016)* is a mosaic-like display of the series’s bold color palette.

1 Facebook	United States	116 Leonardo da Vinci	175 Apple Inc.
2 YouTube	60 William Shakespeare	117 Elvis Presley	176 Standard deviation
3 United States	61 Katy Perry	118 Amazon.com	177 Napoleon
4 Lists of deaths by year	62 Cristiano Ronaldo	119 The Vampire Diaries	178 Sons of Anarchy
5 Google	63 Albert Einstein	120 Arnold Schwarzenegger	179 Climatic Research Unit email controversy
6 Wikipedia	64 Vagina	121 Anal sex	180 Scarlett Johansson
7 Barack Obama	65 Java	122 Henry VIII of England	181 Mariah Carey
8 Malware	66 Naruto	123 Myspace	182 South Africa
9 The Beatles	67 Mahatma Gandhi	124 Italy	183 Jennifer Lopez
10 World War II	68 RMS Titanic	125 The Dark Knight Rises	184 Cat
11 Academy Awards	69 House (TV series)	126 Asperger syndrome	185 Friends
12 Michael Jackson	70 Lionel Messi	127 2012 phenomenon	186 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
13 Sex	71 Hypertext Transfer Protocol	128 Megan Fox	187 Chernobyl disaster
14 United Kingdom	72 Angelina Jolie	129 List of Glee episodes	188 Seven deadly sins
15 Lady Gaga	73 Mark Zuckerberg	130 Bruce Lee	189 Turkey
16 Eminem	74 Illuminati	131 American Civil War	190 The Office (U.S. TV series)
17 India	75 The Hunger Games	132 Penis	191 List of South Park episodes
18 Adolf Hitler	76 Jay Z	133 Leonardo DiCaprio	192 Cloud computing
19 Game of Thrones	77 Drake (rapper)	134 Marilyn Monroe	193 Love
20 Justin Bieber	78 List of The Big Bang Theory episodes	135 Internet	194 South Park
21 The Big Bang Theory	79 London	136 Spain	195 LeBron James
22 How I Met Your Mother	80 List of How I Met Your Mother episodes	137 Star Wars	196 WWE
23 Lil Wayne	81 John F. Kennedy	138 Philippines	197 The Dark Knight (film)
24 World War I	82 Dexter (TV series)	139 EBay	198 The Holocaust
25 Glee (TV series)	83 Vietnam War	140 Singapore	199 List of Game of Thrones episodes
26 Canada	84 One Direction	141 Aboriginal Australians	200 Bipolar disorder
27 Australia	85 Will Smith	142 Netherlands	201 Thanksgiving
28 Kim Kardashian	86 Global warming	143 Avatar (2009 film)	202 Osama bin Laden
29 Steve Jobs	87 Family Guy	144 List of Family Guy episodes	203 RSS
30 Internet Movie Database	88 Mila Kunis	145 Demi Lovato	204 Franklin D. Roosevelt
31 Miley Cyrus	89 Britney Spears	146 List of HTTP status codes	205 Dog
32 Rihanna	90 Halloween	147 Two and a Half Men	206 Snoop Dogg
33 Pornography	91 Wonders of the World	148 Tom Cruise	207 BDSM
34 New York City	92 England	149 George W. Bush	208 IPv6
35 Japan	93 Lost (TV series)	150 Nelson Mandela	209 Jennifer Aniston
36 Selena Gomez	94 Online shopping	151 The Undertaker	210 Freemasonry
37 Germany	95 The Avengers (2012 film)	152 John Cena	211 Charlie Sheen
38 Sex position	96 Dwayne Johnson	153 50 Cent	212 Mark Wahlberg
39 Harry Potter	97 Brazil	154 European Union	213 Google Search
40 Favicon	98 Batman	155 Bob Marley	214 Heroes (TV series)
41 Elizabeth II	99 Michael Jordan	156 List of House episodes	215 Indonesia
42 Taylor Swift	100 Stephen Hawking	157 Dr. Dre	216 Switzerland
43 China	101 XXX	158 John Lennon	217 Metallica
44 Human penis size	102 1	159 New Zealand	218 Microsoft
45 September 11 attacks	103 Israel	160 Script kiddie	219 Pakistan
46 France	104 Manchester United F.C.	161 Twitter	220 Ronald Reagan
47 Sexual intercourse	105 Android (operating system)	162 PlayStation 3	221 Soviet Union
48 Breaking Bad	106 Alive	163 Jesus	222 Yahoo!
49 Johnny Depp	107 Bill Gates	164 List of Top Gear episodes	223 Muhammad Ali
50 Doctor Who	108 True Blood	165 The Simpsons	224 Los Angeles
51 Abraham Lincoln	109 Adele	166 Brad Pitt	225 Emma Watson
52 Tupac Shakur	110 Fifty Shades of Grey	167 Madonna (entertainer)	
53 Russia	111 Outlook.com	168 A Song of Ice and Fire	
54 Nicki Minaj	112 List of Doctor Who serials	169 Charles Manson	
55 Martin Luther King, Jr.	113 Gossip Girl	170 List of pornographic actresses by decade	
56 The Walking Dead (TV series)	114 English language	171 Kristen Stewart	
57 Kanye West	115 List of Naruto: Shippuden episodes	172 Mexico	
58 Masturbation		173 Europe	
59 List of Presidents of the United States		174 Heath Ledger	

Jason Salavon *The Master Index (MMG.1)*, 2016 Mark Moore Gallery

Other works are in a different category altogether. *The Master Index (MMG.1)* (2016) looks like a Word .doc; it is wallpaper with simple black text typed on a plain white background. As the name suggests, it is an index, a list of 225 items running the range from “1. Facebook” to “225. Emma Watson,” with “Leonardo da Vinci,” “Taylor Swift,” “Global warming,” “Sex,” “Thanksgiving,” and hundreds of others listed in between. The list doesn’t have a title, so you might think it’s an index of popular online search terms, which is partially true. *The Master Index* is the result of Salavon’s rather exhaustive summary of public interests based on an index of the five million most popular Wikipedia articles. The work is stark and fascinating, humorous, even grotesque.



Jason Salavon *The End 3*, 2016 / *Chalkboard Gag, Episode 550 Mr. Plow*, 2016
Mark Moore Gallery

Each piece in “All the Ways” seems to be reacting to our changing times and the modern world’s digital metamorphosis. Though the show is still on the air, the living room scene from *The Simpsons* already seems like a relic of the past, from a day not so long ago when we didn’t have pocket-sized minicomputers to search the world’s information at the touch of a button.

—Bridget Gleeson

“Jason Salavon: All the Ways” is on view at Mark Moore Gallery, Culver City, Feb. 25–Apr. 16, 2016.