

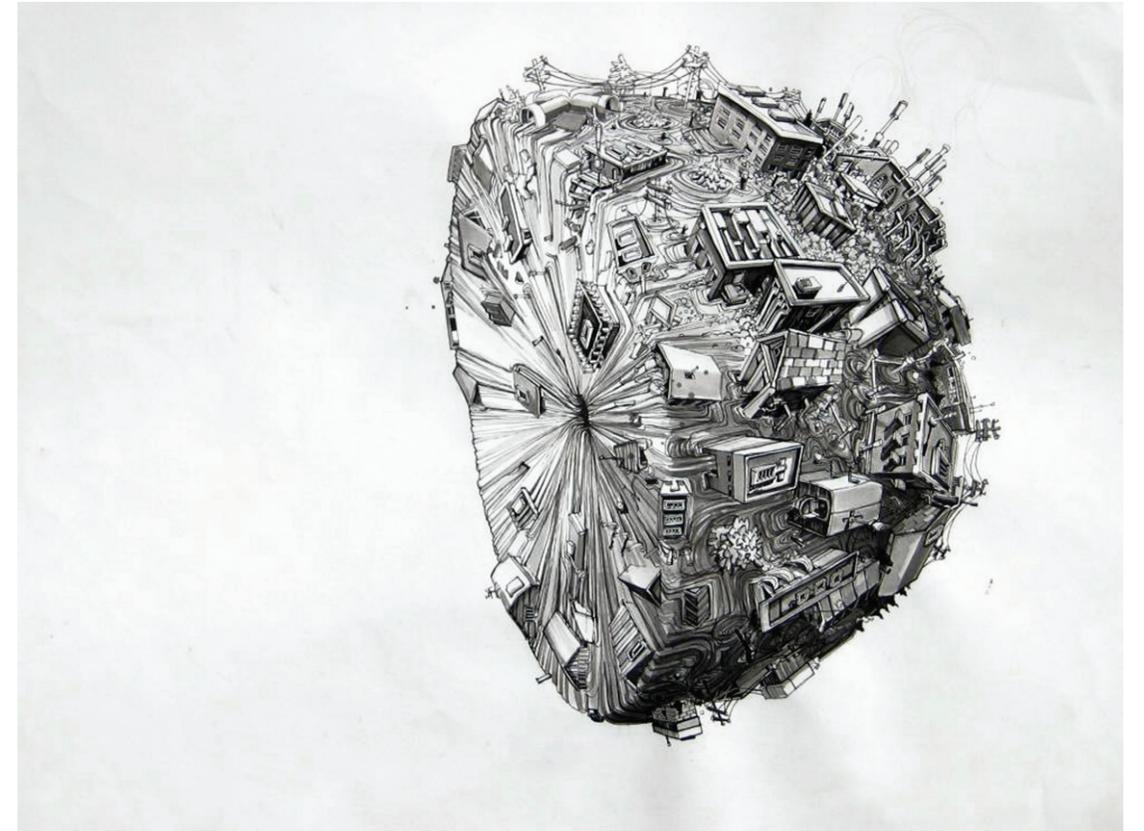
## KIEL JOHNSON

words tommy freeman

Until recently, Kiel Johnson's workshop, appropriately named Hyperbole Studios, was located in an outland part of south Los Angeles County near the harbor. Equal parts city, suburb, industrial complex, and junkyard, this area hardly seems even remotely connected to Tinseltown or OC, but it is a feast for the eyes of those willing to venture off of the freeways that cordon off this swath of strangeness from the rest of the world. For those not so bold, a visit to one of Johnson's exhibitions offers a glimpse of this bizarre territory by way of the artist's unique vision and biting humor.

Johnson's work defies specificity. He draws, he paints, he prints and he sculpts but he does none of these in the traditional sense. Still, there is a unifying theme that underpins all of his work that seeks to transform the lamentably abject into the wonderfully chaotic.

dissect.



finish.