

Begat

Warren Hicks

September 18th - November 1st

lumpprojects.org
505 S. Blount St.
Raleigh NC



Artifact Begat, Manipulated Pigment Prints, 15x25", 2020

NFS



Artifact I Shall Kill You, Manipulated Pigment Prints, 8x8", 2020

\$500



Artifact Behold, Manipulated Pigment Prints, 8x8", 2020

\$500



Artifact Male Female, Manipulated Pigment Prints, 8x8", 2020

\$500



Artifact Beware of Bread, Manipulated Pigment Prints, 8x8", 2020

\$500



Artifact Pub, Manipulated Pigment Prints, 8x8", 2020

\$500



Artifact Drink Naked, Manipulated Pigment Prints, 8x8", 2020

\$500



Artifact Suck Light, Manipulated Pigment Prints, 8x8", 2020

\$500



Artifact Evil Red Meat, Manipulated Pigment Prints, 8x8", 2020

\$500



Artifact X-rate, Manipulated Pigment Prints, 8x8", 2020

\$500



Artifact Evil, Manipulated Pigment Prints, 8x8", 2020

\$500



Artifact Footstool, Manipulated Pigment Prints, 8x8", 2020

\$500



Artifact He Ate Our Children, Manipulated Pigment Prints, 8x8", 2020

\$500



Boobs, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Drums Brooms, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Bread, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Evil, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Camels Hair, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Footstool Coat, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Chicken Wings, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Hat Man, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Cowboy Bong, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Left Hand Tombstone Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Curse, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Male Female, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Domino Ape, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Meth Money, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Door Evil Power, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Microwave Urn, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Drink Naked Evil Red Meat, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Moth Porta Poopie, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Oil Virgins, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Sponge Speaker, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Oven Finger, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



TNT Shower, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Pipe Mighty Do, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Towel Toilet Paper, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Pot Field, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Vest Bleach, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Pub, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



X Rated, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Righteous Harlott, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Salt, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Saw Rice, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150



Sold Wicked Ace, Framed pigment prints on velvet paper, 13x13", 2020

\$150

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Welcome to the head-bending, mind-scratching, ball-banging world of Begat, my extremely redacted edit of the Gospel of Matthew, from the New Testament of the Christian Bible - the King James Version (1611 A.D.) - the one I was forced to read as a defenseless child.

The Bible is edited every second of every day by those who decide which chapters, paragraphs, verses, or sentences to quote that endorse their preferred lifestyle, while blatantly ignoring the multitude that do not. By doing so, according to 80% of believers in the U.S., readers are, by definition, editing the word of God, or at the very least, words that were inspired by God.

If Christian hypocrites can pick and choose which parts of the Bible they endorse, why can't I do the same? I wanted to demonstrate that you can manipulate the Bible to say whatever you want to believe. Personally, I want to believe in elves, talking fruit, cannibalism, and ghosts. I also wanted to make myself want to laugh like hell.

Hypocrites have always boiled my blood. But the Religious Right's loving embrace of Trump and Trumpism has taken hypocrisy to unconscionable levels. It pains me to include family members in this category. My goal is not to criticize people of genuine faith, just the hypocrites distorting the Bible to condemn everyone with opposing beliefs, or for hiding criminal activity behind it. Fun examples: a millionaire megachurch preacher that asks for more money from his congregation because God told him to buy a second private jet; miracle healers; evangelists convicted of defrauding their congregants - including selling fake coronavirus cures; politicking from the pulpit; self-righteous politicians; and a "God-anointed president" using the Bible as a political prop. Where is the Christian outrage?

As I began deconstructing Matthew, memories of my Christian upbringing started to resurface, which was revealing. I became obsessed with the history of the Bible and how it was cut and pasted together over many centuries. My obsession became a passion. I immersed myself into the world of "biblical form criticism" by consuming as much information I could find. I am still consuming. There is so much to learn about the one book that has caused so much suffering and death over three millennia - all in the name of the same god. The same book. The same god. The same problems.

My first experience with the insanity of extreme Christian beliefs hit me personally when I was fourteen years old. I lost my cousin because his parents would not take him to a doctor when he was seriously ill, because they believed in miracles and God would protect him. Neither God nor his parents protected him, and he died from their neglect. They said, "The good Lord was ready to take him to Heaven."

Begat started over two years ago as an editing challenge. Illustrations were gradually introduced and inspired the idea to create prints and a small booklet. Eventually it evolved into a full book with supporting material for context and more humor (hopefully.) Performances and a video are also in the planning stages. This project unexpectedly sent me down a biblical rabbit hole I will never escape. And that has unexpectedly been the greatest reward so far. - Warren Hicks

www.BegatBegatBegat.com

www.WarrenHicks.com



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BIO

Warren Hicks is a visual and conceptual artist working in a variety of media including painting, photography, video, sculpture, installation, and writing. Completely self-taught, Hicks' artistic evolution has been as unique as his personal revolution. He has morphed through a progression of styles, mediums, and influences - embracing, digesting, and discarding. A restless experimenter with a keen sense of humor, he is constantly pushing himself into new ideas in visual art and writing. Hicks works out of his studio at the Fruit in Durham, NC.

Born and raised in Chickasha, Oklahoma, Hicks studied architectural design at Oklahoma State University. Prior to graduation, he fled Oklahoma under cover of darkness to Miami, Florida to explore opportunities within the music industry. After twelve years of free concerts and back-stage passes, he and his wife Martha relocated to Chapel Hill, NC in 2000. Hicks briefly returned to architectural drafting before launching his art career at the ripe age of thirty-six. His' work has been shown throughout the U.S. and Beijing, China.

When he isn't making his own art, Hicks is a freelance art preparator for museums and corporate art collections. Museum clients include: NC Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC; Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University, Durham, NC; CAM Raleigh, Raleigh, NC; Ackland Art Museum at UNC-Chapel Hill, NC. Some of the artists whose work has passed, but not slipped, through his hands include Picasso, Miro, Calder, El Greco, Rauschenberg, Van Gogh, Wangechi Mutu, Nick Cave, and El Anatsui.