

Young, Steven Scott (b. 1957)

Mt. Kisco, New York; lives in Jupiter, Florida

EDUCATION/INFLUENCES

- BA-University of CA-Berkeley; MFA-School of the Art Institute of Chicago; also studied in Siena, Italy.

- Influenced by Vermeer, Caravaggio, Homer (dramatic designs and luminous, clear colors), Eakins (building up of color, stippling, figures with volume and weight).

BIG IDEAS/THEMES

- Exacting, meticulous technique; deep, saturated colors, very powerful representations of African-Americans
- Quiet, idealistic portrayals of simple life scenes; depth of space, facility in handling human form-almost photographic. Artist is also printmaker (studied for 3 years at Ringling School of Art)
- Inspired by crisp, bright light of Bahamas-where he gets most of his ideas. Focuses on children-innocence.
- Modern-day issues of race/human dignity overlooked by art world because of more traditional style

KIA WORK-*Alley Cats*, tempera on gessoed panel, 1998

- Two boys playing marbles-part of a series depicting children playing marbles. Recalls memories from artist's childhood. Bathed in a strong foreground light that splashes down onto the ground around them. Bright blue baseball caps and dark skin provide a striking contrast to the rough, weather-beaten wooden fence that impedes the viewer's further entrance into the scene and focuses our attention back on the boys.

- Meticulous attention to detail, intense, saturated colors and strong lighting imbue this portrayal of childhood pastime with sense of gravity that is hallmark of artist's representations of African-American children.

