



Borrowed from Beraud (2009)

a collaboration over time between

~~—Jean Beraud and Mergel Funsky—~~ **Mergel Funsky** and Jean Beraud

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About the Artists . . .

Biographical Information courtesy of Wacky-pedia

Jean Béraud (1849 – 1935) French Impressionist

The son of a French Sculptor, Béraud moved to Paris to complete his law studies at the Lycée Bonaparte. After completing his military service Béraud entered the studio of Léon Bonnat where he studied for two years.

Béraud's paintings were inspired by modern life and genre scenes. His work owes something to the new art of photography, which induced greater realism and creates new compositional devices. He first exhibited his paintings at the Paris Salon in 1873. Béraud's work was greeted with great enthusiasm and he was welcomed into Parisian society receiving many commissions for portraits from famous figures such as the Prince d'Orleans and Prince Troubetskoy. He attended many of the evening soirees arranged by the popular hostesses of the time and frequently depicted these scenes in his paintings.

Closely allied with the Impressionists, Béraud would hold lengthy aesthetic discussions with his friend Edouard Manet. He frequented the same cafés, restaurants and theatres as Dégas, Renoir and Toulouse-Lautrec, but although his work is imbued with the spirit of Impressionism he appears to combine this with the more classically accepted styles of the day to create works with a unique character.

Béraud was founding member and vice president of the Société Nationale des Beaux Arts, where he exhibited between 1910 and 1929. He was awarded a gold medal from the Society of French Artists in 1889 and a gold medal at the Universal Exhibition in 1889.

Following his death the Musée Carnavalet held a retrospective of his work.

The work of Jean Béraud is represented in museums in Liège, Lille, Tours and Troyes, France.

Mergel Funsky (March 4 ? -) American Imaginist

A distant cousin (once removed, forcibly) of the Oz Munchkins, Funsky moved to Chicago to enliven Simon's otherwise boring imagination. After completing virtually nothing Funsky entered the apprenticeship of Larry the Contractor, under whom he studied remodeling closet doors.

Funsky's drawings were initially inspired by Crayola. His work owes something to the new art of Photoshop, which permits much less realism and creates havoc. He first exhibited his drawings on a T-shirt for Ginny for her 30th anniversary. Funsky's work has been greeted with great consternation, and he was ushered into Chicago's imaginary society, receiving many commissions from famous characters such as Emperor Ming (the Merciless) of Mongo and Daffy Duck. He attends many of the evening soirees arranged by unknowing hostesses of Chicago (even when not invited) and frequently depicts their dessert buffets (and appetizers) in his drawings.

Closely allied with the Imaginists, Funsky tries to talk to anyone who will listen, usually winding up alone with his friend Simon. He frequents the same Chinese take-outs, pizzerias, and freebies at Costco as Simon and Ginny, but although his work is imbued with the passion of Eating, he appears to combine this with the more avant garde styles of Marxism (Groucho) and Monty Pythonism to create works never previously imagined.

Funsky is the founding (and only) member of the Foundation for Imaginary Guys ("not everyone who thinks of nonsense") (FIG NEWTON), where he exhibits between meals. He was awarded an Oscar for his work in Simon's magic DVD in 2004 and a free pizza by the Contractor's Carryout Commission for his work on the cafeteria in Ginny's office building. He also received a 3 ½ foot giant pickle for his birthday.

Funsky currently exhibits a retrospective of his work on his Facebook page. His free treatise Funsky on Art is available at www.simonaronson.com/mergel/art.pdf and as a 2 ½ minute movie documentary, at www.simonaronson.com/movies/funskyonart.wmv

The work of Mergel Funsky is represented on several coffee mugs and computer mouse pads throughout Simon and Ginny's home.