

Object of Interest—AYA 2018

The World of Clowns

Quote by William Shakespeare: "Better a witty fool, than a foolish wit".



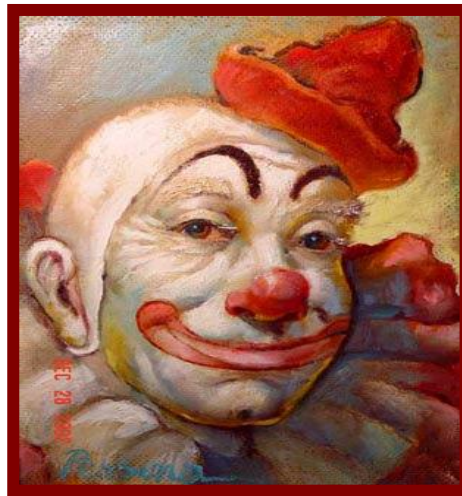
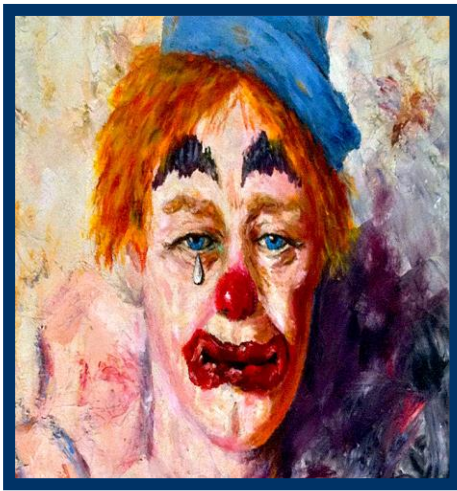
The history of clowns is a vast subject and one could write a book about it if one had time!.
Clowns, as pranksters, jesters, jokers, harlequins, and mythologized tricksters have been around for ages.

They appear in most cultures...

- Pygmy clowns made Egyptian pharaohs laugh in 2500 BCE.
- In ancient imperial China, a court clown called YuSze was, according to the lore, the only guy who could poke holes in Emperor Qin Shih Huang's plan to paint the Great Wall of China.
- Ancient Rome's clown was a stock fool called the '*stupidus*'.
- The court jesters of medieval Europe were a sanctioned way for people under the feudal thumb to laugh at the guys in charge.
- Well into the 18th and 19th century, the prevailing clown figure of Western Europe and Britain was the pantomime clown, who was a sort of bumbling buffoon.

Let your imagination run wild

Created by Ivana St John-AYA Coordinator— email atwelart@inet.net.au



..... and don't forget to tell us about your work in an artist statement!