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**DIGITAL PAINTER DANIEL LEIGHTON IS “OPENING UP” IN A BIG WAY
WITH SLEW OF EXHIBITIONS FOR 2013**

Leighton Takes Us On His Hero’s Journey, Using A New Medium To Overcome Old Pain

"Every time I look at Daniel Leighton's paintings, I gasp. I'm discomfited. I'm thrown off my center, right smack dab into the middle of the human condition whether I like it or not. And every time I have the same thought: "Now *that* is art. I am moved to my core." - Marianne Williamson



Los Angeles, CA March 28, 2013 – For L.A. based artist Daniel Leighton, his work is not just a way of expressing himself – it’s a way of healing. Plagued by a chronic illness that’s left him facing his mortality daily since the age of 5, much of the trauma Daniel has endured can only be remembered as deeply metaphorical images – persistent visions that have haunted him for his entire life. Daniel has worked in a number of mediums to commit his visions to form, from writing to short film art. A lifelong Mac user and Apple enthusiast, it wasn’t until 2010 that Daniel first picked up the iPad and began breaking ground as a digital painter, and the works began to flow out of him. In just a few short years, Daniel has amassed a collection of hundreds of visceral paintings.

On April 19th, 2013 at 7:30pm, Leighton will be conducting a presentation on how to use the iPad to paint at the world’s top-grossing Apple Store at the 3rd Street Promenade in Santa Monica, CA. The event will feature the artists’ work, as well as a how-to on utilizing Apple’s powerful tools in expressing your creative vision. “I’m thrilled with the opportunity not only show how art can be used as a tool for healing,” Daniel says, “but also showcase new and innovative ways of making it. Apple has always made products that empower everyone to be creative, and I am thrilled to be a part of that.”

On May 25, 2013, Leighton's solo exhibition "Opening Up" will premiere at WAAS Gallery in Dallas, TX. Reception will begin at 5pm with a fundraiser for Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America. At 7pm the doors open to the public. "Opening Up," will showcase Daniel's own personal hero's journey from childhood to empowered artist through the narration of his paintings. The title refers directly to the chapter of life he's in. "I've been haunted by these images for a long time and I've had no way to express them with anyone else," Daniel says. This inner life has been a roadmap for Daniel, and until now it's been something no one else has been able to understand or even see. It's only in the past few years that he's really been able to tap into that world and actually express it concretely. WAAS Gallery is located at 2722 Logan St. in Dallas, TX. More information will follow.

Daniel will do a follow-up show to "Opening Up" at NRG Recording Studios in North Hollywood, CA this summer. Stay tuned for more information.

Since 2010, Daniel has been honing his craft and building a surprising repertoire of works. In 2013, it's finally time he opens up and shares those with the world.

ABOUT DANIEL LEIGHTON

Daniel Leighton is a Los Angeles-based contemporary artist whose work arises from resurrected memories and persisting visions. His early career encapsulated the imagery of his mind through video art, technology and theory and has presently summoned expression through digital painting. Being faced with his mortality since childhood due to illness, the workings of the body are crucial and revered. As Leighton paints, he follows his physical pain to a place of physical relief. This results in an emotional landscape, which he uses to find connection to self and to other. Leighton received the prestigious Regents and Chancellors Scholarship from UC Berkeley where he graduated cum laude with a BA in filmmaking. In 2010, Leighton began using an iPad as his medium and is a pioneer in iPad painting. Leighton's films have been shown at the University Theater in Berkeley, California and the Pacific Film Archive. Visit www.danielleighton.com for more information.