

Lines of Sight

The award-winning documentary on painter Jim Hall.

Contact: Steve Oldfield 859-307-1103 - lineillism@gmail.com



Lines of Sight

Sometimes a crisis helps you to create something extraordinary.

"Lines of Sight" is the award-winning documentary about noted painter Jim Hall. It traces Jim's journey through incredible hardships and his development of a new art-form he calls "Lineillism." Jim created the style after a stroke and shingles marred his vision so that he saw everything in vertical lines. Instead of panicking, Jim started painting the way he was seeing the world: in lines. Filmmakers capture every one of the more than 500,000 vertical brushstrokes that go into these paintings with dramatic time-lapse footage. Jim continued to be an innovator until his death in August, 2017 at the age of 84.

The documentary premiered at the Indie Gathering International Film Festival in August, 2016. It won the **“Viewer’s Choice Award”** as favorite film of the festival, selected from more than 70 films from 10 countries, including features. It’s also an official selection of the Amsterdam Lift-Off Festival, Louisville’s International Festival of Film and the Borrego Springs Film Festival, where they commissioned Jim to create a Lineillism painting that was used as the cover of the festival’s program. It has currently reached “Semi-Finalist” status at the Madrid Art Film Festival.



Story Summary / Synopsis

Artist Jim "JC" Hall had been painting for more than 60 years when a stroke and devastating case of Shingles threatened to ruin his sight and to end his passion. For months, his vision was marred by vertical lines. Then, Jim's sight cleared - and the crisis created a burst of creativity that has been going strong for nearly 15 years. He painted the world how he saw it during his bout with Shingles.

Jim calls the artform "Lineillism," a new style of painting, using vertical lines. The paintings take more than a month to produce and feature more than 500,000 lines of varying lengths. The innovative new style has captivated collectors across the country. Jim staged a well reviewed exhibition of more than 30 Lineillisms in 2010.

When filmmaker Steve Oldfield approached Jim about a documentary, the artist’s chief concern was that they paint a revealing portrait, sharing some of his most difficult and painful memories. Jim's journey began on a sharecropper's farm in Kentucky with an abusive father who used his son’s early paintings to patch holes in their barn. As soon as Jim was old enough to leave home, he moved to California where he found himself homeless on the beach in Santa Monica. After a stint at UCLA, Jim ended up working as an ad man for Procter and Gamble, affording his family a comfortable suburban life in Ohio that wasn't what it seemed: Jim battled depression and alcoholism and endured electro-shock therapy and several intense treatment centers until he finally joined AA. Jim now has 33 chips that honor more than three decades of sobriety.

All the while, Jim has evolved as an artist: from early paintings on planks of wood on the farm to creating elaborate canvases featuring his trips to exotic locales (funded by his work as a P&G executive). For several decades, Jim was represented by one of the most respected galleries in the Midwest. In 2014, Jim lost the rock of his life, his wife Joan, a life coach who left inspirational lines all over the house.

■ INNOVATIONS

Artist reinvigorated after stroke

I doubt many 78-year-olds would describe a stroke as invigorating.

Then again, retired Procter & Gamble executive Jim Hall surprised me each minute of our hour and a half interview at Artist in Residence, a small gallery and studio he operates in Sharonville.

Hall has spent the past decade developing a new art movement, like Claude Monet's impressionism and Andy Warhol's Pop Art. He calls it lineillism (pronounced LYNE-uhl-izm). He'll unveil 35 original pieces at the Sharonville Fine Arts Gallery on Reading Road beginning Sept. 24.

From far away, Hall's pieces

Retired P&G exec runs gallery

look like bright, colorful scenes from his trips around the world. But close up, it's clear he's done something unique.

Lineillism is accomplished by painting thousands of straight, vertical lines on a canvas. The complication comes with figures that aren't necessarily vertical, like chairs or birds or water. He hopes it will eventually be an art form taught in schools.

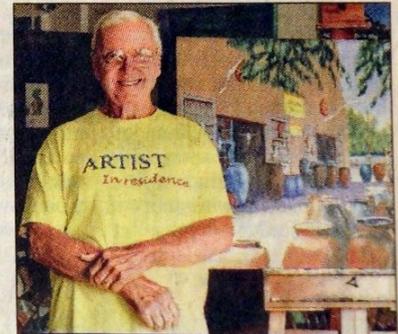
Hall's art is somewhat of a miracle. For two years following a se-



Laura Baverman

vere stroke in 1998, he felt no sense of creativity, no desire to paint. His left carotid artery was completely blocked and his right nearly halfway. Doctors told him he may have experienced a right-to-left brain switch.

Hall had painted since age 14, when he adorned his family's farm in Campbellsburg, Ky., with colorful artwork. Eager to leave his small town, he joined



The Enquirer/ Cara Owsley

Jim Hall, a retired Procter & Gamble executive, has created a style of post-impressionist art called lineillism.

See **ARTIST**, Page **B2**

Lines of Sight

Story Summary/Synopsis Cont.

Jim wasn't sure he could go on painting without his wife's support. With the help of a grief counselor, Jim has experienced another rebirth in his artwork. He continues to paint and to spread an inspiring message of hope.

In addition to telling Jim's incredible story and revealing the inspiration for more than a dozen of his prized Lineillism paintings, the filmmakers crafted a "canvas cam", that uses time-lapse video to capture the entire month-long process of painting a Lineillism.

Other interviews include Jim's family members, friends, Lineillism collectors across the country and a painting expert who examines this new technique. Jim's personal journey also creates a compelling story. His work has been favorably compared to Monet, Van Gogh and Seurat. At the same time, Jim is a suburban "every man" who once won a contest as "Cincinnati's greatest Bengals (football) fan". Jim Hall hasn't just created an important new painting technique that inspires artists of all ages; his personal story will captivate audiences everywhere.

Artistic Approach

We are fortunate that we are presenting the story of a painter, whose colorful and vibrant works are captivating on many levels. We have shot dozens of works from many different angles. We also are presenting several time-lapses that were created with our "canvas cam," a small camera mounted on a custom-built mount that enables us to shoot the entire canvas along with the artist's hand and brush. The paintings take more than a month to create and the artist often works

spur-of-the-moment, in the middle of the night. The "canvas cam" insured we didn't miss a single brush stroke.

Our interviews are shot in a simple and "honest" style, using natural light whenever possible. While our music is engaging, it is meant to enhance the story and mood rather than overpower it. We made this documentary for under \$10,000 but we hope it captures Jim Hall in the captivating way he deserves!

Traveling Exhibit

Jim Hall and director Steve Oldfield recently launched a museum exhibit that features 10 original Lineillism paintings and panels that tell Jim's story that will travel with the documentary to venues around the country. **Lineillism Revealed** premiered at the Behringer-Crawford Museum in Covington, Kentucky in February, 2017. They received an ArtsWave grant that will enable them to take the exhibit to non-traditional arts spaces like high school gymnasiums, community centers, libraries and senior centers. For more information: www.LineillismRevealed.org.



Artist turns pain into painting inspiration

Contributed By: [Sharen Kardon](#) | January 20, 2017

In 2000, local artist Jim "J.C." Hall suffered an intense attack of shingles, a painful disease which affects the nerves and, in Hall's case, his vision. He began seeing the world in vertical bands of color.

At first, he thought he was going blind. Then, intrigued as an artist, he began painting what he saw. Applying paint to canvas in vertical stripes that blend together from a distance to form an image, Hall created a new art form, which he named "Lineillism."

Hall's vision cleared over time, but he continued his new painting technique. In 2015, he met Bellevue, KY filmmaker Steve Oldfield, who was struck by Hall's story and decided to make a documentary about the man and his art. Last August, the film, "Lines of Sight," premiered at the Indie Gathering International Film Festival in Hudson, OH, where it not only won the feature documentary category, but also the Viewer's Choice Award as the favorite overall film from more than 70 entries from 10 countries.

The film and an exhibit of Hall's paintings, titled "Lineillism Revealed: The Birth of a New Art Form," will open at Behringer-Crawford Museum in Devou Park at 6 p.m., Friday, February 3. The film will be shown from 6:30-7:30 p.m., followed by a discussion with Hall and Oldfield, when they will share behind-the-scenes stories about the year-long production process.

Admission to the reception is free for museum members and \$5 for non-members. The exhibit will continue through Sunday, April 9 and is included with museum admission.

The exhibit chronicles Jim Hall's evolution as an artist, beginning with a school award that he won in spite of his parents' lack of support. It follows him through a stint in the Navy, a period of homelessness in California and a successful career with Procter & Gamble, all the time continuing to paint in different styles. It also acknowledges his struggle with and recovery from alcoholism and salutes support from his wife.

Included in the exhibit are 10 of Hall's original Lineillism works and several earlier paintings, plus artifacts, monitors with clips from the video and a time-lapse of Hall creating a Lineillism painting. An interactive display uses Viewmasters to enable visitors to see an image as Hall did during his shingles attack.

Behringer-Crawford Museum is located in Devou Park, 1600 Montague Rd., Covington, KY. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. Closed Monday and national holidays. Admission is free for BCM members, discounted for Cincinnati Museum Center members and included with museum admission for all others. Regular museum admission is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors 60 and \$5 for children. Parking is free. Wednesdays are Grandparents' Days: one grandchild free with a grandparent's paid admission.



Jim "J.C." Hall at work on one of his Lineillism paintings.



St. Mark's Square

Lines of Sight - Bios

Director/Producer Steve Oldfield has created hundreds of hours of television programming in a variety of major markets around the country. He also has worked as a film critic and reporter, covering the documentary competition at Sundance for more than a dozen years. He is a graduate of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and has received Fellowships to the Institute on Political Journalism at Georgetown University and the Poynter Institute for Media Studies. In 2014, he produced and directed "Points of View: Covington at 200," an award-winning documentary that is currently airing on KET (PBS stations in Kentucky). Oldfield has directed video projects for a number of cities and museums including the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. He mentors high school documentary filmmakers and his students have gone on to the Film School at the University of Southern California, The Art Institute of Chicago and Harvard among others. Oldfield lives in Bellevue, Kentucky.

Executive Producer Patrick McCabe is a nationally recognized innovator in education. He was the founder and director of the New Roads School in Los Angeles and served as the Executive Director of Covenant House. McCabe also has extensive television and production experience: He was Vice-President of Western International Media; National Sales Director for Cablevision/Sports Channel Networks and he worked as a Production Coordinator for HBO. McCabe is a graduate of Wesleyan University.

Composer Joe Schutzman is the lead singer for "Joe Wannabe and the Madman's Blues Band." He is a senior at Northern Kentucky University where he is majoring in creative writing. He is also a firefighter who has worked for several departments in Kentucky. *Šă ^•Ā Āđ @* is the first film featuring Joe's original music.

Linellism film wins top award

Kelly McBride, kmcbride@communitypress.com

CINCINNATI.com
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



The premiere of a documentary about the life and new artform of Sharonville artist Jim (J.C.) Hall has made history at an Ohio film festival. “Lines of Sight,” produced by filmmaker Steve Oldfield, was among 70 films from 10 countries featured at the Indie Gathering International Film Festival near Cleveland Aug. 8-14. It was the first public showing of the hour-long film, which won an award in the Feature Documentary category and also took the festival’s top prize: the Viewer’s Choice Award.

Hall was curious to see how the audience would receive the documentary, settling into the back of the theater.

“I sat in the back by myself, to get a feel for the audience,” he said. “There’s a place in the film where there’s a small laugh, followed by a bigger laugh.” Sure enough, the audience let out a small collective laugh, then erupted into a large one as planned. Other references to Hall’s devotion to the Cincinnati Bengals made an impact at the festival set in Browns territory.

The documentary scored a rare feat: winning the Viewer’s Choice Award. It is uncommon for a documentary to take the top prize. Oldfield had prepped for an award in the documentary category, convinced that Hall’s story was compelling. He never imagined he’d take home the biggest prize. And it was big. Almost as tall as Oldfield.

“It brought me to tears,” Hall said of the crowd’s reaction to the film. But his thoughts were of his wife, Joan, who died in 2014. “What would Joan have thought of all this,” he wondered. “She had told me she hoped the world would understand the obstacles I went through to create this artform,” Hall said of being stricken with shingles and a stroke, which temporarily left him seeing in vertical lines. He feared he was going blind, but instead of shutting down, he adapted, and created Lineillism.

“I thought that would happen after I died, but she died first.” He credits Joan’s spirit for his chance meeting with Oldfield, who was working on another film project when they were introduced. “Joan is my navigator.” The two men became friends over the following year that Oldfield followed Hall’s life, even setting up a “canvas cam” to record every vertical stroke required for several Linellism paintings. Time-lapse videos of the painting sessions appear in the documentary.

“He’s an everyman,” Oldfield said of Hall. “Here’s a nice guy, a former P&G exec. “But he’s also an incredible talent. An incredible man in the middle of America. “I believe I’m getting to spend a good part of my life with one of the great artists of all time.”



Contact Information

Steve Oldfield

Director/Co-Producer

Lineillism, LLC

50 East Rivercenter Suite 407

Covington, KY 41011

859-307-1103

lineillism@gmail.com www.linesofsightdocumentary.com



