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To Contact Artist René Capone: rene@renecapone.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Jan. 11, 2016

For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:
<http://www.renecapone.com/zebrapress.html>

René Capone presents:

**The Zebra Boy Chronicles - New Work by René Capone
Watercolor Paintings & Mixed Media Drawings**

Even zebras have scars, they just hide them better.

Feb. 17, 18, 19, 2016 (Wed., Thurs. & Fri.)

Opening Reception. Thurs. 18, 2016 – 6:00 - 10:00 pm.

Gallery #611hyde

611 Hyde St. (at Geary St.) in San Francisco 94109

FREE - Open to the Public.

Gallery Hours: 1:00 - 9:00 pm Daily (artist will be at the Gallery all 3 days)

<http://www.renecapone.com/home.html>

Artist **René Capone** is presenting A Solo Exhibition of new work - Watercolor Paintings & Mixed Media Drawings, titled: **The Zebra Boy Chronicles - *Even zebras have scars, they just hide them better* - by René Capone**

The exhibit runs for 3 days only **Feb. 17, 18, 19, 2016 (Wed., Thurs. & Fri.)**

at **Gallery #611hyde - 611 Hyde St. (at Geary St.) in San Francisco 94109**

(*Gallery #611hyde is a Pop-up Gallery*) All works displayed will be for sale.

Opening Reception: Thursday. Feb. 18, 2016 – 6:00 - 10:00 pm.- FREE - Open to the Public.

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Special guest artists in the show include **Matt Pipes & Alex Brown**

Alex Brown - Alex Brown is a portrait artist and illustrator in Oakland, CA. He has painted portraits across the nation specializing in emotive and captivating portraiture. His portraits have covered celebrity to politicians and activists. <http://alexandermbrown.wix.com/portfolio#!bio/c1xfq>

Matt Pipes - Matt has a whimsical take on LGBT social commentary. In his own words “I express my opinions visually through a halcyon lens which I hope puts the viewer in a time and space that seems like it may have once existed. One that is inhabited by sailors, tall ships and mythical creatures.” Matt received his BA from The Evergreen State College. Professionally now working at Trillium Graphics as a Fine Art printmaking studio print maker.

<http://www.mattpipes.com/home.php>

To arrange an interview with artist René Capone, or for additional info, call publicist Lawrence Helman 415/ 661-1260 or e mail René directly rene@renecapone.com

Artist Statement:

The story of *Zebra Boy* is a visual narrative inspired by the never-ending orthopedic procedures that I endured during 2015. The scars that now run down my legs reminded me of a Zebra and my imagination took over from there.

In images, this is a story of someone who is learning to accept their stripes -- the task being to grow with them as well as into them --- as we all must do in life.

This becomes a journey from adolescence to adulthood. With each drawing in the series, we see Zebra Boy grow from awkward child into a more settled version of himself.

With his glorious stripes, he eventually transforms both physically and mentally into something of a mythological creature. He becomes untouchable by the insecurities of mankind – and a symbol for all those who might need one.

I see this work as a modern myth or metaphor for anyone who is born "different." It's also a story for anyone facing the challenges of disability and it shows that you can ultimately win.

History of René Capone recent Health Issues:

Since October 2014 I not been to walk due to Avascular Necrosis. It's when blood cannot make it through hip joints. It's a common side affect from the medication Truvada. Taking steroids speeds up the process quickly. I was on three courses of steroids for my lungs right before I was unable to walk.

In efforts to try and save my left hip it was hollowed out with a giant drill to allow more blood flow. It did not work - instead my femur bone snapped in half. That was two months go. It's barely healed and now the left hip needs to be replaced and it is going bad fast. I can barley walk at this time. In order to replace the left hip the Orthopedic surgeon will have to remove the metal rod that runs down the entire interior of my leg and also take out the sideways pin holding my hip in place before he can the saw and drill in the new hip. The sad part is the company that makes Truvada knew that it would do this to people. But the drug company released the version anyway because the profit was to big to ignore, It's hush hush... and people are paid to keep quiet. But its going to be a big story in 2016.

Back to my "Zebra Boy" I suppose it was art therapy in a way, the lines were therapeutic to paint and I am an artists that loves characters in conflict. Will he lash out at the world around him or stay sane? I'm not sure as the process is still evolving. As an artist I am fascinated in what keeps people in check mentally.

René Capone is a Bay Area artist, and after living in San Francisco since 2000, In 2015 he was forced out of the rent market and now resides in West Oakland, CA where he has a home studio.

Bio - René Capone: <http://rene-capone.pixels.com/index.html?tab=about>

René Capone is a Bay Area based figure artist, René Capone is an American painter known for his depiction of whimsical, and erotic themes; often used together. His work has drawn global notice and

has become widely collected. Capone was born in Niskayuna, NY and attended Parsons School of Design in NYC. Upon completion in 2000, he moved to San Francisco where he lived until 2015 when he was forced out of the rent market and now resides in West Oakland, CA where he has a home studio. In 2004, Glaxo Smith Kline became his first corporate collector. Private collectors of Capone's work can be found in the USA, Canada, Sweden, England, France, Japan, and the Netherlands. Capone is also the creator of the graphic novel "**The Legend Hedgehog Boy.**" A fully illustrated book designed to empower abused children to be better than what the world gave them. He self published it in 2012 and continues to show it in children's book fairs throughout in California. Other publishing achievements include: Stripped: The Illustrated Male from Bruno Gmunder. His work has been featured in XY magazine, The Advocate, Blue, Joey, Y&A, as well as being featured widely over the world wide web. Collections of his figure work, "Any Given Moment" and "A Boy Named..." can both be found on Amazon.com

Calendar Editors:

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