

# Singing with René Capone

**R**ENÉ CAPONE, 22, paints pictures of love and longing. He calls each canvas “a certain crafted song, meant to strike a chord in people.”

His artwork is visually stunning and emotionally loud. The images in the paintings can be both erotic and sensual, introspective and proud. For a gay boy viewer, who



RENÉ CAPONE

can see shades of himself depicted in the paintings, René’s work is both liberating and incredibly sexy. “I wanted other people my age to see these paintings and say, ‘yeah, I know,’” René says.

“Yeah, there’s a lot of sex in here,” he says with a smile. “But it’s not sex in a nasty way at all. Life *should* be sexy. If it’s not, I want off the planet.”

He recently moved to San Francisco from New York, where he studied at Parsons School of Design. He’s still trying to adjust to the slower west-coast pace, yet his art seems to have grown richer with the move. When he’s not working on new projects or scouring the city to find the right art gallery for his paintings, he just observes—carrying a notebook everywhere he goes and making constant sketches and notes.

“I think I’m the only one obsessed with life enough to think about it all day long,” he says, jok-

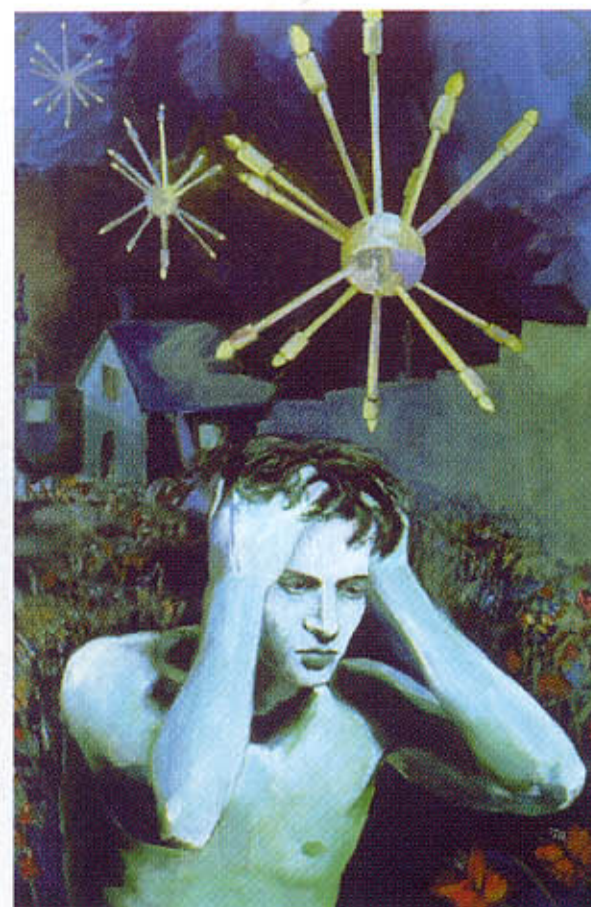
ing: “I’m not good at anything else. I suck at customer service.”

When René looks back at his progress since being featured in XY back in 1998, he notices some



^ TOUCH

v LEFT IN THE GARDEN



ESCAPE

CREATURES IN THE GROVE

major changes. For one, when he looks at his art from a few years ago, he realizes he used to feel a lot more anger than he does now.

**‘W**HEN YOU’RE YOUNGER and just trying to come to terms with being gay, you’re very

angry. I don’t have that anger anymore.” He adds, “I think when you grow up, you realize there’s nothing really to yell at anymore. Who was I yelling at anyway? I realize, now, that everyone’s connected. That’s where these new paintings come from.”

From his notebook, he showed me a sketch for an upcoming painting. He showed a picture of a boy doing a one-armed handstand. “This one’s going to be tough to find a model for,” René says. “I might just have to use myself.” Posing upside-down for your own painting? Now that’s a true artist.



—MIKE GLATZE

check it at [www.rcapone.com](http://www.rcapone.com)



RUNNING OUT OF REASONS

