

Joseph Stashkevetch

My drawings are derived from photographic source material, but are not, as commonly perceived, direct transcriptions of photographs. Instead, I use my own photographs as guides, or scaffoldings, on which to build extremely lifelike renderings of a variety of objects: flowers, motorcycles, clouds, water and rocks to name a few. At first glance, my subject matter seems straightforward, but there is always a political subtext. For example, the arteries crisscrossing beneath the skin of the Conte crayon bodybuilders in the *American Muscle* series mimic the river systems of countries where the United States has flexed its military might. The lifelike detail of the drawings makes the hidden political subtext more subversive and remarkable by lending the credibility of photographs to the drawings.