



# COURIER-GAZETTE

From The Newspaper

## 'Alan Magee: art is not a solace' wins film award

November 16, 2022

The virtual My Hero Film Festival Awards Ceremony is Saturday, Nov. 19, at 5 p.m. (EST) via Zoom. All are welcome.



"Alan Magee: art is not a solace," featuring the Cushing artist, recently won a film award.

CUSHING — “Alan Magee: art is not a solace” is the winner of the 2022 Ron Kovic Peace Prize of the My Hero Project and Film Festival.

The My Hero Film Festival awards the Ron Kovic Peace Prize annually to the short film that most effectively addresses the issue of world peace. The My Hero Project supports the critical efforts of artists and peace activists whose work shows the power of non-violent solutions to our world’s troubles.

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(EST) via Zoom. All are welcome. The program will feature clips from the 2022 award recipients. Sign up for the virtual film festival awards ceremony at [myhero.com/festival](https://myhero.com/festival).

Co-directed by P. David Berez and David Wright, “Alan Magee: art is not a solace” is a 60-minute portrait of brilliant artist Alan Magee who dares to explore the darker aspects of human nature and behavior while also celebrating the beauty he finds in the natural world.

Magee’s arresting images, which comment on corporate greed, cruelty and gun violence, and civilian and military victims of war, seem at odds with his serene paintings of nature and found objects, but through his distinctive visual language and interconnected themes, Magee suggests these dual realms are inseparably interwoven.

Shot on location from Pemaquid Point, Maine to the streets of Berlin, “Alan Magee: art is not a solace” explores the artist’s subjects, locales, and the historical sources that have sustained his work for five decades. Through his paintings, sculpture, monotypes, music and short films, Magee invites viewers to travel with him through the veiled recesses of human experience — and back into the affirming light of day.



A film still of Alan and Monika Magee before Käthe Kollwitz’s sculpture in the Neue Wache, Berlin, the Memorial to Victims of War and Dictatorship.



Ron Kovic is an accomplished author, painter and activist who has worked for world peace over the last 40 years. As a former Marine Corps sergeant, he served two tours of duty in the Vietnam War before being wounded in combat and paralyzed from the mid-chest down. He went on to become a prominent spokesperson for the anti-war movement and has since addressed the Democratic National Convention in 1976; President Obama and other dignitaries at the 32nd annual Kennedy Center Honors Ceremony in 2009; and Rome's Mayor Gianni Alemanno and other civic leaders as a member of Council for Dignity, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation in 2010. "Born on the Fourth of July," starring Tom Cruise, is an award-winning feature film by Oliver Stone based on Kovic's autobiography of the same title.

Three excerpts from the film can be found at [vimeo.com/767860574](https://vimeo.com/767860574). Copies of the documentary are available from Bullfrog Films at [bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/alan.html](http://bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/alan.html).