

# OCERS' Reggie Tucker: An artist and an investor



**Reggie Tucker**, managing director of investments at Orange County Employees Retirement System, designs visual art in his spare time under the umbrella “recycled abstract.” Most of his pieces use recycled materials or items that otherwise would be thrown away, such as old magazines, to reinvent them into something new and beautiful. Tucker also has a broader passion and background in the study and practice of various other arts. He shares with us his deeper insight into his work, and how it marries with his investment career.

## Q: WHY DID YOU BECOME AN ARTIST?

**Reggie:** I don't know if it's necessarily something that you become versus something you are. I believe all of us have some form of creative energy flowing through us. It's just a function of how strong that current is and whether you want to focus on it or not. I've always been surrounded by art and music. When I was younger I first made music on Mac way back in the day, and then on an ASR-10 sampler keyboard starting in the late '90s. There's always been some form of creative current flowing through me.

## Q: WHY THE RECYCLED ABSTRACT MOTIF?

**Reggie:** I see a natural beauty or artistic quality in everyday things. A few years ago, I became fascinated by magazines. I often look at magazines as if they are their own artistic pieces themselves. Some of these magazines I hate even using sometimes because I just find them so fascinatingly beautiful.

I also have an appreciation for highlighting the beauty that's in something that normally just gets recycled. And that's where the term “recycled abstract” comes from. Magazines are tossed and recycled all the time; beautiful ones are left in high-end hotel rooms and unappreciated. I've literally just found boxes of really great fashion and arts magazines on the side of the streets in Manhattan.

## Q: WHERE IS THE MOST UNUSUAL PLACE YOUR ART IS HANGING?

**Reggie:** I'm not famous, so I don't know that there's anywhere particularly unusual that my art is hanging per se. But in my current setting, you could say my walls are saturated with art. There's literally no more wall space for me to hang anything. My daughter is also passionate about art. All around the house is generally filled with supplies for future projects and current projects at various stages of completion.

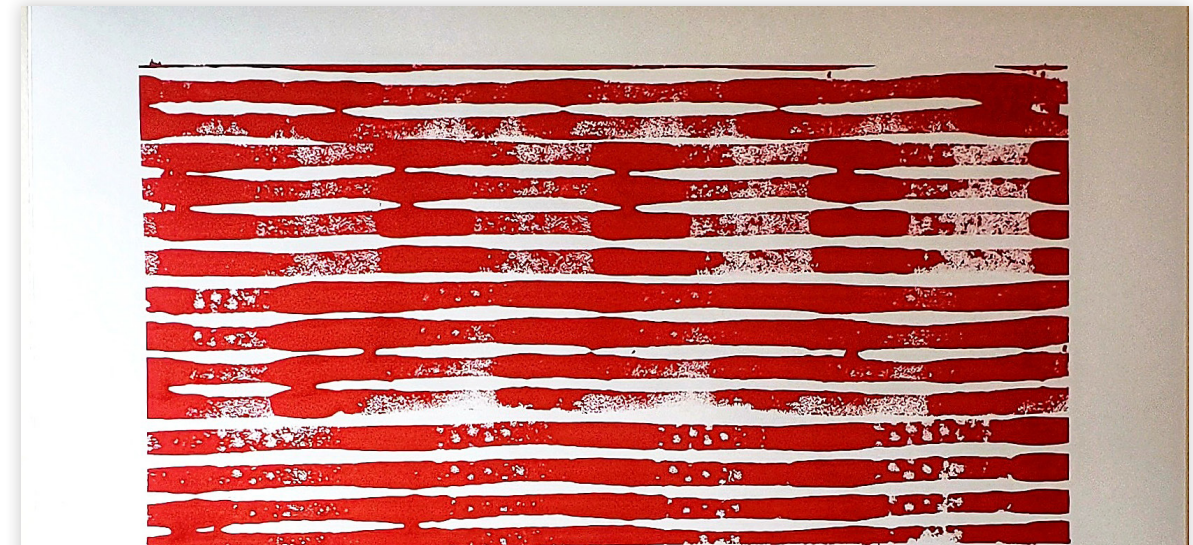
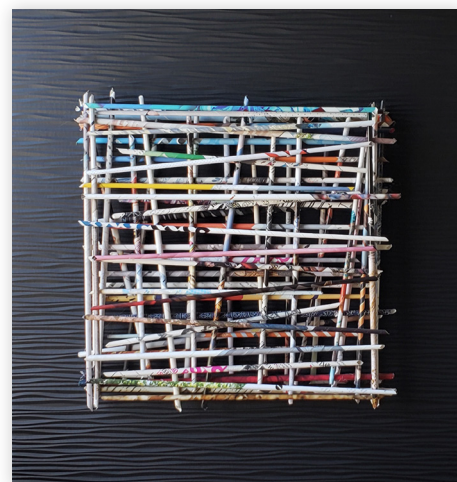
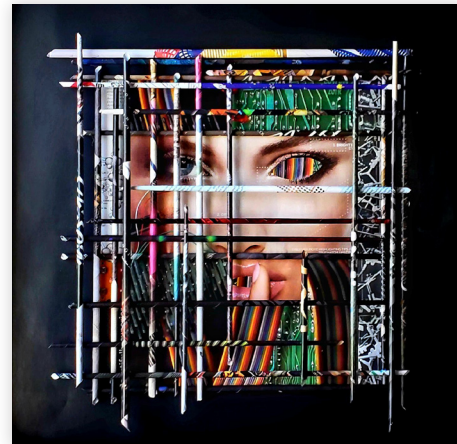
**Q: IF YOU COULD TAKE ONE FAMOUS ARTIST IN HISTORY TO DINNER, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?**

**Reggie:** I'll give you one dead and one living.

- (1) **Jean-Michel Basquiat:** He spent the bulk of his time in an area where I lived, in the Lower East side and Tompkins Square Park and Alphabet City. Also, I have appreciation and envy for the courage in his pieces with the social commentary being so overt. A lot of my art, if there is a commentary it is often subtle or enigmatic.
- (2) **Mark Bradford:** He is a Los Angeles-based artist who also uses his environment and the items from his environment to create his pieces. He has done a lot in terms of supporting the arts and in bringing the arts to the community, which I also appreciate. I also just draw inspiration from the scale of his pieces. I'm fascinated with/jealous of people who can create in large scale. It's something I would like to do more of.

**Q: HOW DOES YOUR INVESTMENT DAY JOB IMPACT YOUR ART AND VICE VERSA?**

**Reggie:** The busier or more hectic my work schedule is, the more I have a desire to escape and create and have that additional focus. I have discovered there are a lot of people in our industry who also have a passion for art. That's been a great motivator.





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