



Nature Boy, 2012

The centuries old tradition of *trompe l'oeil* painting literally means, “to fool the eye,” and Brega’s detailed oil paintings are indeed meant to convince us that what we see is real.

In “Nature Boy,” Brega paints what, in effect, appears to be an actual issue of *TIME* Magazine with rock icon Steven Tyler on its make believe cover. A small sub-heading above the *TIME* logo tells us that an article inside features the art of *trompe l'oeil*.

Sheet music tucked behind the magazine, reveals a song beloved by Tyler as a child written by eden ahbez (he wrote his name without capitals). Tyler grew to admire abez, who achieved cult status in his own right.

Old and new are juxtaposed in this whimsical narrative: two free spirits – a flamboyant, contemporary rock star and a gentle odist to a child of nature.