

#### Describe your path to becoming an artist.

It's really not an interesting story. I figured out that I could draw when I was taking art classes in high school. It came really easily to me and at the time, I liked drawing everything perfectly. I loved English and art and at the end of school I just picked one.

#### Was there an "aha" moment for you when you knew that you wanted to do illustration?

Um... no, not really. I actually struggled throughout my illustration program. In the last year, we were required to do a work placement at the end of it for 3 weeks. A lot of people found internships with working illustrators or interned with magazines. At that time, I was thinking illustration was maybe the absolute wrong thing for me and I had to get special permission to intern at a gallery instead. I thought maybe I didn't fit into the commercial art world at all. Working at a gallery showed me that I wasn't a fine artist either. I think I was always more of an illustrator.

I'm glad I did that internship. It showed me that I did want to be an illustrator even though I was worried I wasn't cut out for it. I am more commercial than I thought.

# Do you feel a responsibility to contribute to something bigger than yourself?

No, none at all. Maybe I should. I feel very removed from that type of idea. I feel very responsible to myself to do things to the best of my ability that give me personal satisfaction. If I was drawing, and nobody knew anything about my drawings 5 years from now, that wouldn't really bother me.

### What do you find personally satisfying?

It's so simple. I feel satisfied when I draw and I draw well. Whether it's for a project or personal work, there's nothing like that for me. You know what I mean as someone who feels really rewarded creating something that didn't exist at all 5 minutes before you did it.

Of course, the opposite of that is drawing poorly, which



is also a part of being a creative person. I'm not always drawing well. Sometimes I'm drawing like crap and that's difficult. That's tough. You either have to walk away if you can, or you have to keep drawing and drawing and draw through it. But I've realized over the years that that's just a part of it and it makes it so much more rewarding when I draw something and it feels effortless. Drawing like that is like meditation.

## Are you satisfied creatively? Where do you hope to be in 5 to 10 years?

No, not entirely, to be frank. I would love to be doing more personal work on a larger scale, like literally larger. I'd like to be doing larger scale

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