

Madison Fagundes

Art 74

Final Paper

12/06/18

Artist's Statement

Within a limited frame, I strive to create an infinite world. My work serves to shock, enlighten, and inspire thought. It is my ultimate goal to transport my audience from a logical reality, into a realm of unlimited possibilities. I want my work to be seen as an escape from reality, or a peek into a different world. It is for this reason that I create all my works with a surrealistic theme.

I create most of my work to be absurd, different, and extreme, because that reflects who I am. Throughout my life, I have always been eccentric in how I think and act. However, I have a hard time expressing myself in a normal manner. Art allows me to accurately express the rambling ideas that are perpetually running through my head. It is for this reason that some of my works do not have an apparent meaning. The only meaning behind them is whatever the audience wishes it to be.

Many of my works, while following the formerly mentioned themes, also serve as a gateway into my head, and into my life. I base many of my works' storylines on events that have occurred in my own life, so as to make them more meaningful/personal. These events can range from achievements, to tragedies, to horrors. My greatest emotional focus, however is on the obstacles that I have overcome throughout my adolescence. Through doing this, I hope to allow my audience to think about their own obstacles, and inspire

them to continue to work to overcome them. I want my art to help others, as art has helped me.

My Influences

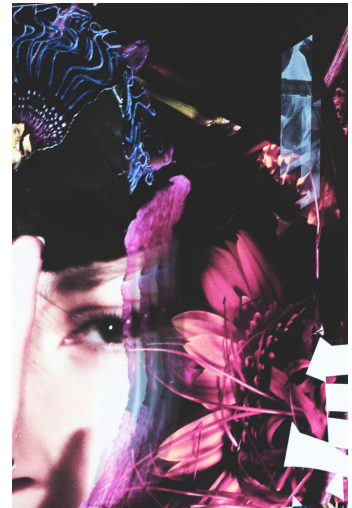
Justin Peters



Justin Peters is a 22 year old German surrealist artist. He creates his work through the use of photo merging/manipulation in Photoshop. Peters lives by the Pablo Picasso quote, “Everything you can imagine is real”, as his work stems from recreating reality. Just like me, he creates odd, imaginative scenes that seem to be of another world. His surrealistic pieces have inspired many ideas for my own pieces, and they have made me want to become a better artist. Through practice, I hope to better myself, and hopefully, one day I will be as skilled.

Website: <https://jstnptrs.myportfolio.com/home>

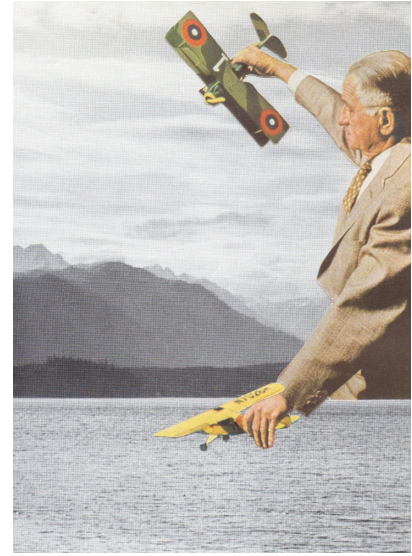
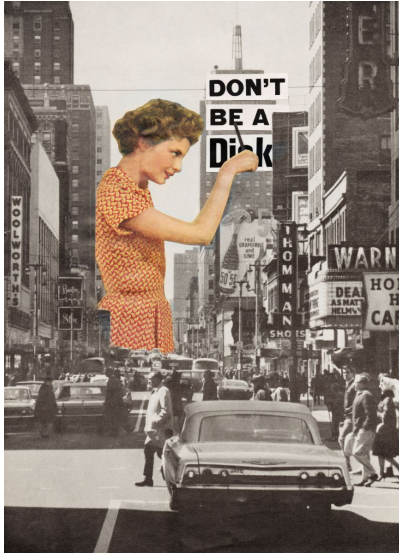
Emon Toufanian



Emon Toufanian is an Iranian-American artist who works worldwide, and is based in New York and Paris. He is a collage artist and photographer, who discovered his artistic abilities by accident in the midst of an emotional break. His creative process involves taking inspiration from other artists, and using music to build a story. Toufanian has been inspirational to me, because his creative process is very similar to my own. In the future, I hope to attempt collaging as an art form as well.

Website: www.emontoufanian.com

Bri Lamkin



Bri Lamkin is a Colorado-based photographer, but she has recently begun to do collage work. Her works, just like mine, have a surrealistic theme. However, she has become an inspiration to me and my own work because of the content of her works. Lamkin's work deals mostly with heavy topics, such as mental health, feminism, and the environment. Topics such as these are what I want to use my artistic voice for. As I continue on my journey as an artist, I will continue to look to Lamkin for inspiration on how to convey these subjects.

Website: www.brilamkin.format.com

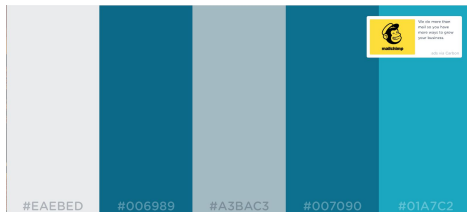
My Process

Like many artists around the world, I cannot create art from simply trying to create art. Instead, inspiration finds me sporadically.

When I have a creative idea, it is not a whole image of a finished piece in my head, but rather an emotion/feeling that I want to convey. In order to do this, I first find a theme that will convey the emotion I want to convey. This theme typically comes in the form of a lesson, or a surrounding ideology (Most of my themes are dark or tragic, as my most common goal is to make people take a step back from themselves and think). Most of the time, I go through this process when I'm alone. It is almost ritualistic for me, a way to temporarily hide from the outside world. When I do this, I sit on my own and type the ideas that run through my head. Once I have a solid theme, I move my focus to creating a storyline/meaning that will go hand in hand with the overall theme. These storylines/meanings typically stem from an event, or a lesson that I have learned in my own life. My art is personal to me, and always ties to my life in some way.

Once I have written out the storyline that will go with the piece I am creating, I move to how I can convey this story through visual symbols. This process typically involves researching commonly used symbols, as well as other events/people that I may reference to enhance my story. Additionally, I sometimes include characters and environments from my own life, such as friends/family, and the town that I grew up in. This makes my artwork more personal to me, and I feel closer to it. It allows me to put all of myself into my work, and make it almost like an extension of myself.

When I know the content that is going to be put into my piece, I begin working on the color scheme that will accompany it. Though I mostly use color for visual aesthetic, I also incorporate symbolism into my color schemes (For example, if I'm going to make a piece that is angry, my color scheme would be mostly reds). First, I begin by creating the



color palette that will be used throughout my piece.

Most of the time, I use a website called Coolers

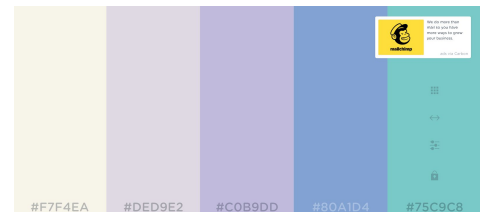
(<https://coolers.co>) to do this. This website allows

me to generate color palettes, and move/adjust them

until I have what I am looking for. This works

amazingly for me, because I often struggle with my

sense of color. This site allows me to let the computer



do all of the technical work, so that I can put all of my focus into the content of my work.

Once I have my color scheme planned, I decide which medium I am going to use. While my favorite means of creating art is through Photoshop, I also enjoy drawing, collaging, painting (I only really enjoy painting when it is on something that is not a canvas), and even chalk art. However, most of my works end up being created through Photoshop, since art supplies are extremely expensive. When I do use other mediums, it is typically for an important piece, a public piece, or a piece that has great significance to me.

Finally, when everything else is decided, I begin to piece everything together. I use the colors that I have selected to create a background, and to find/create/edit images that will go with it. I place all of my selected symbols, and anything else that I have chosen to incorporate onto my canvas (or whatever I am creating art on). From there, I begin to

maneuver the different components of my piece to where it tells the story that I want it to tell. I keep manipulating and moving things around until I am completely satisfied with how it looks. Once I am completely satisfied with my work, I leave it out for a few days, so that I will notice anything else that I may want to change. After a few days pass, I add the work to my portfolio (or computer files). Satisfied with my work, I set out to begin the process all over again. While the process may seem tedious, I live for it. Art makes me who I am.