

THE ART OF BEN AVLIS



SPONTANEOUS DRAWING TASK



USE THIS IMAGE TO CREATE AN **INTUITIVE** IMAGE OF YOUR CHOICE.....THERE ARE NO RULES ABOUT HOW YOU USE IT..... YOU ONLY HAVE 10 MINUTES..... IF YOU FINISH EARLY.....ADD EXTRA DETAILS AND AN ENVIRONMENT

WHERE DID THE IMAGE COME FROM?



REFLECTION IN YOUR Visual Arts Process Diary

1. Did you enjoy Intuitive drawing activity? Why/Not?
2. Were there any challenges for you?
3. How did doing this work make you feel? Elaborate

TODAY WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT THE WORK OF BEN AVLIS

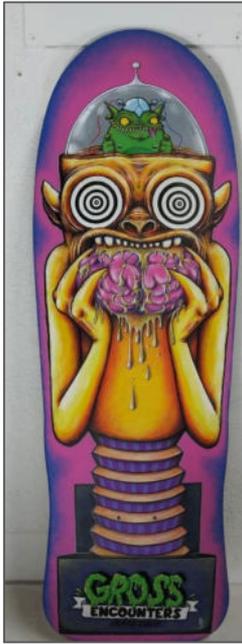
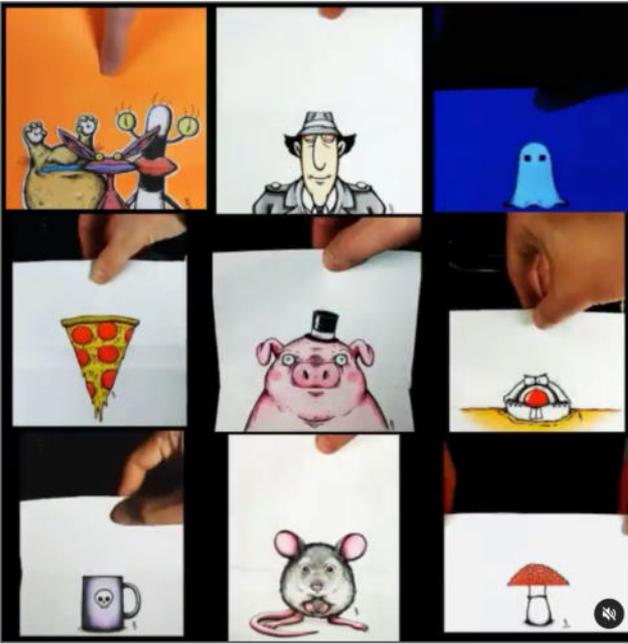
SEE, THINK and WONDER

I SEE		<p>What do you NOTICE?</p> <p>What do you SEE?</p> <p>Students make OBSERVATIONS and write down what they SEE.</p> <p>Use as much ART TERMINOLOGY as you can.</p>
I THINK		<p>What do you THINK?</p> <p>What are your THOUGHTS?</p> <p>Use your OBSERVATIONS as EVIDENCE</p>
I WONDER		<p>What WONDERINGS or QUESTIONS do you have about these images?</p> <p>What does it make you WONDER?</p> <p>What do you WONDER about WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY? HOW?</p>

LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE ARTWORKS, DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUP AND WRITE YOUR ANSWERS

I SEE What do you SEE? What do you HEAR? What do you FEEL? What do you SMELL? What do you TASTE?	I THINK What do you THINK? What do you BELIEVE? What do you HOPE? What do you DREAM? What do you WANT?	I WONDER What WONDERINGS or QUESTIONS do you have about this image? What does it make you WONDER? What do you WONDER about THIS? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY? HOW?

CLICK THIS LINK



LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE ARTWORKS, DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUP AND WRITE YOUR ANSWERS

I SEE		What do you NOTICE? What do you SEE? Students make OBSERVATIONS and write down what they SEE. Use as much ART TERMINOLOGY as you can.
--------------	---	--

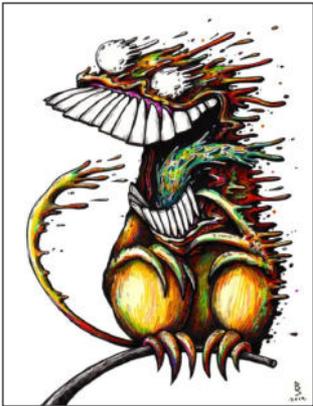
I THINK		What do you THINK? What are your THOUGHTS? Use your OBSERVATIONS as EVIDENCE
----------------	---	--

I WONDER		What WONDERINGS or QUESTIONS do you have about these images? What does it make you WONDER? What do you WONDER about WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY? HOW?
-----------------	---	---

Blank space for student observations.

Blank space for student thoughts.

Blank space for student wonderings.



The **Conceptual Framework** is a system used by **art** students to highlight and explain all the information and ideas that consist within and about an artwork. The **Framework** consists of four agencies; **artist, artwork, world and audience**. Each of these agencies describe and integral aspect of an artwork.

What aspects of the artist's world (**personal, physical and psychological experiences**), where they live, events, influences, culture etc are seen in their work?

WHAT IS AN ARTIST'S PORTFOLIO?
 An artist's portfolio is an edited collection of an artist's best artwork intended to showcase their style or method of work. A portfolio is used by artists to show employers their versatility by showing different samples of current work.



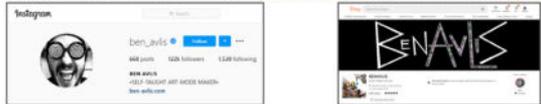
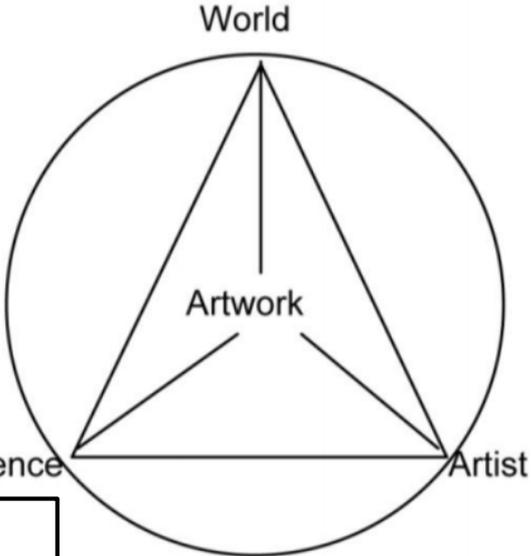
An example of Ben's portfolio

AUDIENCE

HOW CAN AN ARTIST USE THE INTERNET TO SHOWCASE THEIR ARTWORKS?
 "The internet was barely a few years old by the time I finished high school, so in order to get exposure for my artwork I had to do it the old fashioned way by making a portfolio and going to art galleries. A total challenge in itself of the time.

You seriously had to hustle if you wanted to exist as an artist. Nowadays it is much easier to network with so many different artists as well as find new opportunities online. I'm always trying my best to take advantage of how convenient that is and it's something that I think all artists should do as well."

AUDIENCE: INSTAGRAM & ETSY ARE PLATFORMS FOR ARTISTS TO PROMOTE AND SELL THEIR WORK TO AUDIENCES

ARTIST'S WORLD An artist's world includes their interests, experiences, where they live, those they surround themselves with etc.

BEN'S EARLY INFLUENCES
 "As a kid growing up in the 1980/90s I was extremely captivated by the cartoons, TV shows, and movies of that time. The list is endless but some examples would be Who Framed Roger Rabbit, Fraggle Rock, Ren & Stimpy, and especially the classic Looney Tunes cartoons."



HOW DID BEN BUILD HIS SKILLS?
 "I would draw all sorts of characters from everything that I really liked and that became a form of art practice for me without knowing it because I was enjoying it so much (something I HIGHLY recommend for anyone learning to draw or harness their skills) Like for anything else you want to succeed in, practice truly is EVERYTHING, no matter what your skill level may be. You can never have enough.

I started to improve quickly and by the age of 7 and I knew for sure that I wanted to be some kind of artist in my future."

- Who is the artist?
- Where are they from?
- What influences the artmaking?

- How can Contemporary artists promote their Artworks to audiences?
- How can Artists build a profile and build a market?

ARTIST

Name: Ben Avils
 Age: 38 (October 12th, 1982)
 Born in: Fall River, Massachusetts USA




"According to my mother I started to draw as a 7 year old and I've been making some kind of artwork through my life ever since. It is something that I have always felt driven to do."



THE FRAMES: BEN'S WORK RELATES TO THE

FRAME



The frames

Different perspectives for viewing and making artworks.



Subjective

Personal thoughts or feelings an artists has created into an artwork about an event, time or place.



Structural

How the artwork is constructed, signs and symbols used, and material choices.



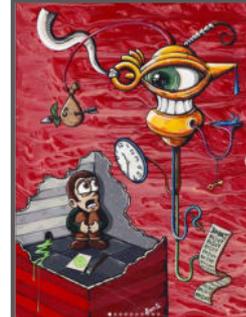
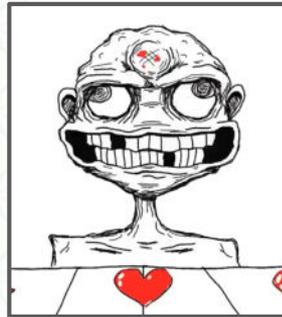
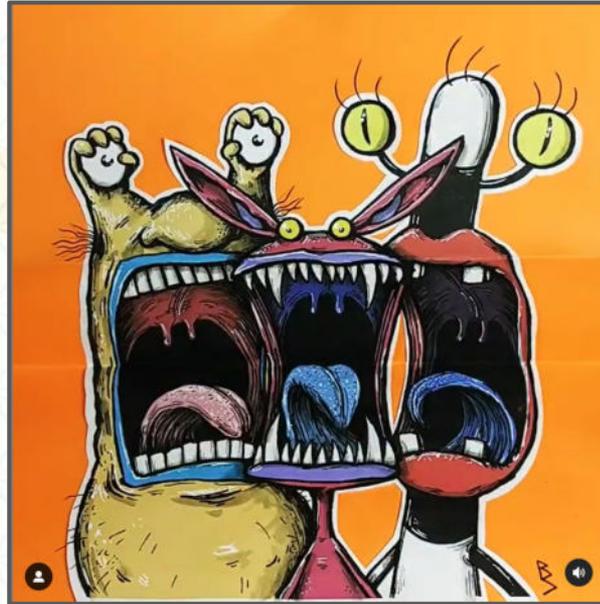
Cultural

Beliefs that form a custom or tradition about a group of people.

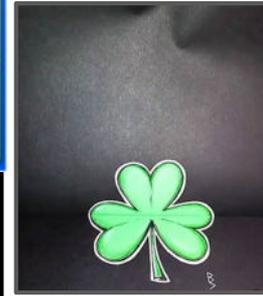


Postmodern

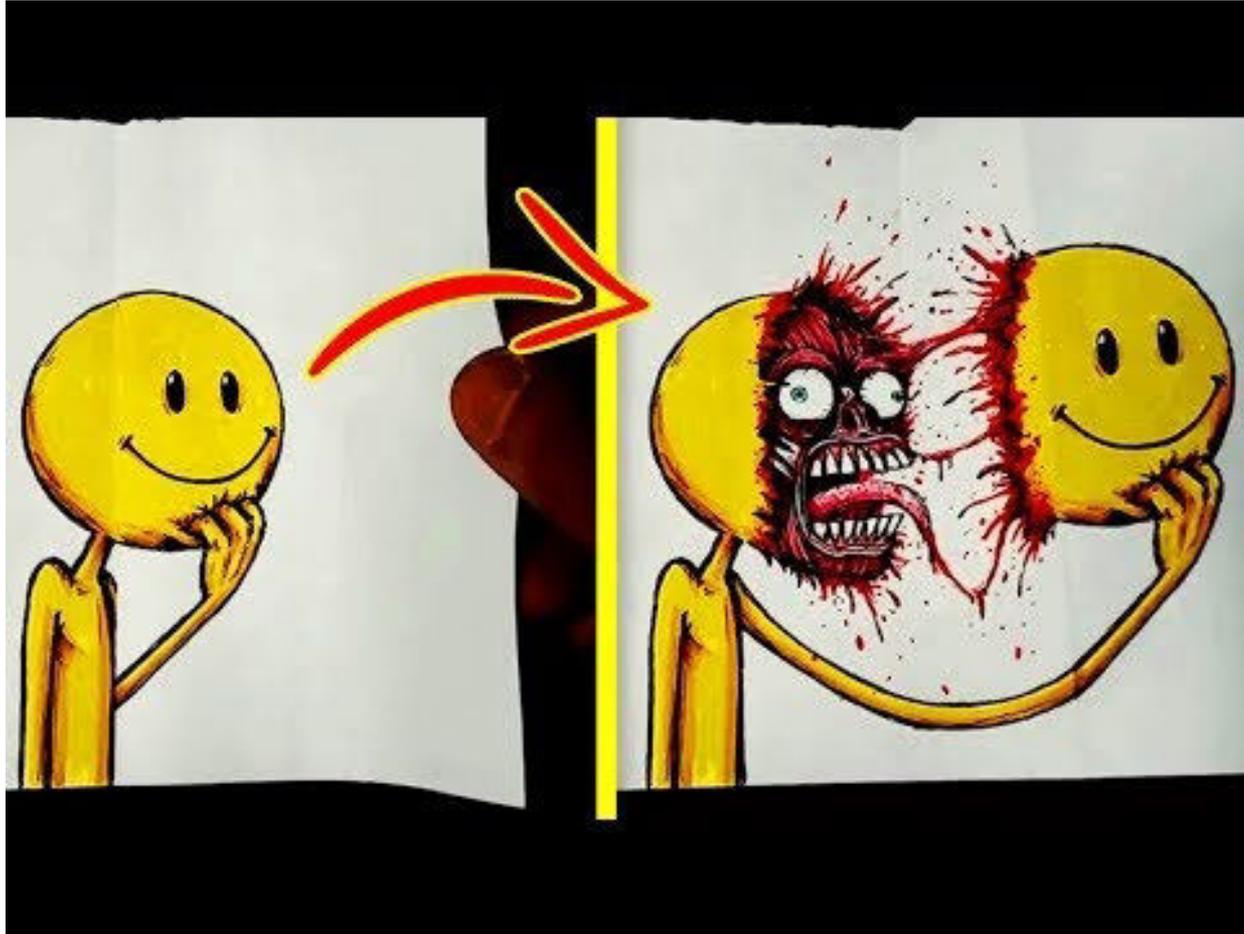
Challenging traditions of the past using a wide range of art materials including technology, to express current social issues.



- Emotions
- Feelings
- Imagination
- Intuition
- Subconscious
- Dreams
- Nightmares
- Reactions



ARTWORKS: THIS CLIP IS A COMPILATION OF BEN'S "PAPER-PULL-OUTS"



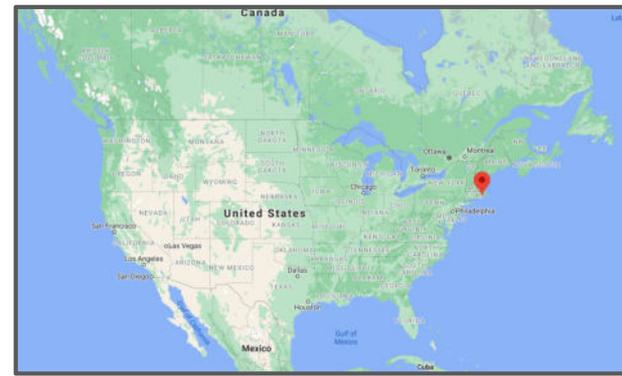
ARTIST



Name: Ben Avlis

Age: 38 (October 12th, 1982)

Born in : Fall River, Massachusetts USA

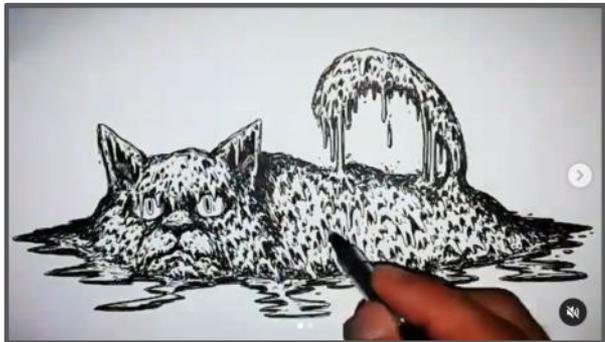


“According to my mother I started to draw as a 1 year old and I’ve been making some kind of artwork through my life ever since. It is something that I have always felt driven to do.”



HOW DID YOU BECOME AN ARTIST?

"I never had art classes or went to an art school. An "art career" wasn't really an option while growing up for many reasons. But like most "dreamers", I always believed that if I kept working at it then that art career dream would become a reality. Even though I was told by so many people that becoming a working artist was almost impossible, I still kept at it no matter what. Again, LOTS of practice!"



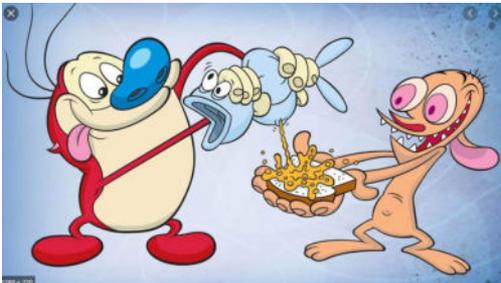
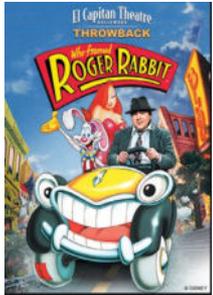
*The process for making my artwork varies depending on what I'm making and with what medium. **The one thing that I ALWAYS do for every drawing/painting/sculpture is to draw a TON of sketches of subject before I officially begin.** It not only helps me practice a bit but it can also bring out new ideas/techniques that might benefit the process. I think it's always good to prepare a bit before diving in."*

ARTIST'S WORLD

An artist's **world** includes their **interests, experiences, where they live, those they surround themselves with** etc.

BEN'S EARLY INFLUENCES

*"As a kid growing up in the 1980/90s I was extremely captivated by the **cartoons, TV shows, and movies of that time**. The list is endless but some examples would be *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, *Fraggle Rock*, *Ren & Stimpy*, and especially the classic *Looney Tunes* cartoons."*



HOW DID BEN BUILD HIS SKILLS?

*"I would draw all sorts of characters from everything that I really liked and that became a form of art practice for me without knowing it because I was enjoying it so much (something I **HIGHLY** recommend for anyone learning to draw or harness their skills) Like for anything else you want to succeed in, practice truly is **EVERYTHING**, no matter what your skill level may be. You can never have enough."*

I started to improve quickly and by the age of 7 and I knew for sure that I wanted to be some kind of artist in my future."



ARTWORKS

THE INKTOBER CHALLENGE!

Jake Parker created Inktober in 2009 as a challenge to improve his inking skills and develop positive drawing habits. It has since grown into a worldwide endeavor with thousands of artists taking on the challenge every year.

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

Inktober
CLASSIC

31 DAYS
31 DRAWINGS

INKTOBER CLASSIC GUIDELINES

Inktober
52

ONE DRAWING A WEEK
ALL YEAR LONG

INKTOBER52 GUIDELINES

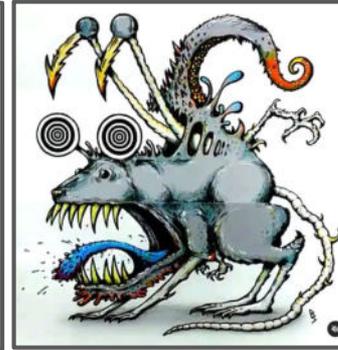
ANYONE CAN DO INKTOBER,
JUST PICK UP A PEN AND START DRAWING.

WHERE DO THE IDEAS COME FROM?

Subject matter can be one of the most difficult parts of all sometimes haha but there are certain things that you eventually find yourself preferring to make more than others.

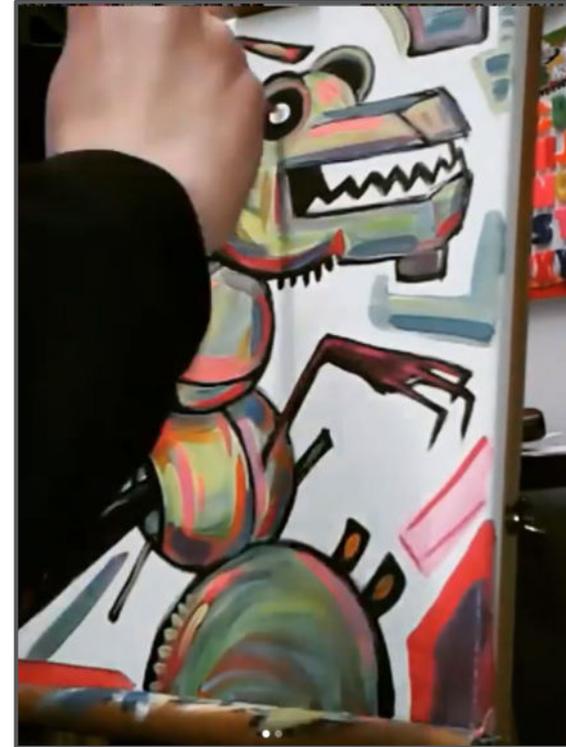
*I enjoy drawing so many different types of subjects but **I LOVE to draw monsters with wacky eyes/teeth** so I stick with that a lot. That is a definite inspiration from the cartoons. Now I also partake in drawing clubs (InkTober) on Instagram where a word/subject is picked for anyone to draw and submit.*

It's a great challenge and I highly recommend it for the fresh ideas, practice, and exposure. [CLICK HERE](#)



HOW TO BUILD YOUR ARTMAKING PRACTICE

“Over the many years of drawing I started to discover my own personal styles/techniques to define me as an artist. I started focusing on my own characters and creations which also led to experimenting with different mediums and platforms such as painting, clay, digital art and animation. There are so many things that I want to make with so many mediums that I find it hard to focus on one at a time.”



ARTWORKS



THE ORIGINS OF PAPER-PULL-OUTS

*“My process and inspiration for the paper pullout drawings is a bit different (Oh, and I’m still not exactly sure WHAT to call those things officially hahah but I have been using “paper-pull-out” the most). So, the **paper pullouts all started as something my friends and I would do in middle school (6th grade) for goofs.***

*We would **fold up paper in different ways then draw something on the front and hand it to the next person who would unfold the paper and draw the inside part.** It was so fun to do and we would crack up at some of the results. We were also trying to out-do one another with the drawing quality and subject matter.*

*I didn’t experiment with the **paper pullout idea again until only a few years ago (2016) for a drawing club that I was entering weekly.** The **feedback from Instagram** was so incredible that I decided to experiment with the idea a bit more. Soon after that, a friend informed me that my drawings/vids were going viral on all sorts of platforms and it was inspiring so many people from around the world to experiment with the same paper pullout idea.*

Little did I know that a simple/creative thing my friends and I would do for fun would end up a major part of my artistic adventure.”

WHAT IS AN ARTIST'S PORTFOLIO?

An artist's portfolio is an **edited collection** of an **artist's best artwork** intended to **showcase their style or method of work**. A portfolio is used by artists to show employers their versatility by showing different samples of current work



An example of Ben's [portfolio](#)

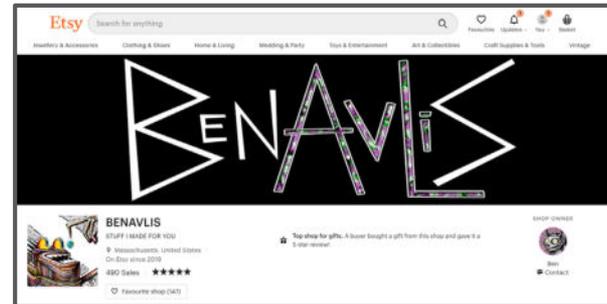
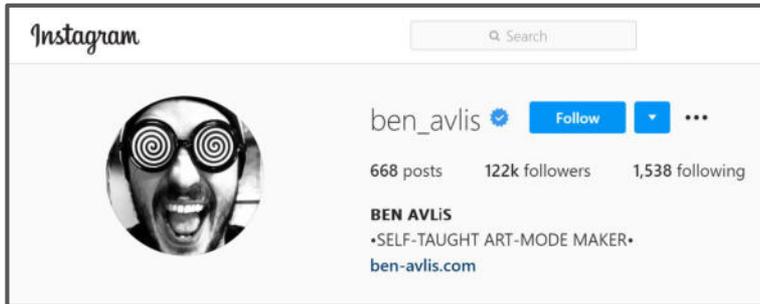
AUDIENCE

HOW CAN AN ARTIST USE THE INTERNET TO SHOWCASE THEIR ARTWORKS?

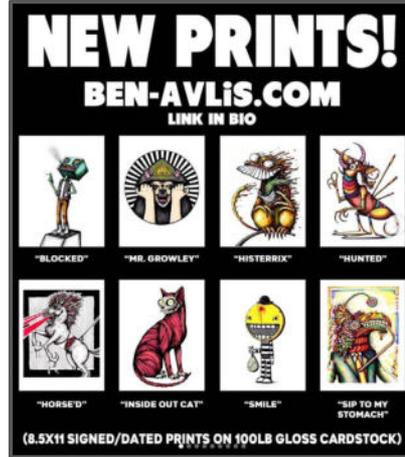
*"The internet was barely a few years old by the time I finished high school, so in order to get exposure for my artwork I had to do it the old fashioned way by **making a portfolio and going to art galleries**. A total challenge in itself of the time.*

*You seriously **had to hustle** if you wanted to exist as an artist. Nowadays it is much easier to **network with so many different artists as well as find new opportunities online**. I'm always trying my best to take advantage of how convenient that is and it's something that I think all artists should do as well."*

AUDIENCE: INSTAGRAM & ETSY ARE PLATFORMS FOR ARTISTS TO PROMOTE AND SELL THEIR WORK TO AUDIENCES



AUDIENCE: BEN'S DESIGNS ARE CONVERTED TO STICKERS, T'SHIRTS, LABELS, BUTTONS, ANIMATIONS, SKATEBOARDS ETC TO MAXIMISE EXPOSURE AS AN ARTIST. ARTISTS HAVE TO FIND WAYS TO PROMOTE THEIR WORK INTO NEW MARKETS

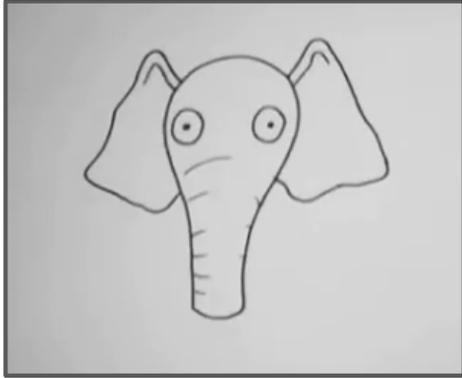


ARTISTS PRACTICE

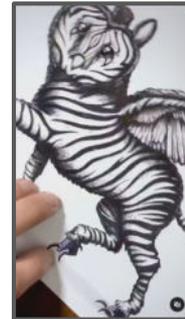
The conceptual **practice** of an **artist** refers to their ideas, their philosophies (beliefs, influences and experiences- an artist's world) and the thoughts an **artist** tries to provoke.

Material **practice** refers to the specific materials an **artist** has used, their methods and techniques and the technical details of an artwork.

- Monsters
- Cartoons
- Humour
- Popular Culture



- Drawing
- Pens, Sharpies
- Painting
- Digital Art
- Animation
- Clay



SOME FABULOUS ADVICE FROM BEN AVLIS

I am amazed by so many different types of artwork and people today that I rarely struggle to find inspiration for creating. It's everywhere if you're looking for it. But, the biggest art challenges that I do face every single day are:

- 1) Not overthinking ideas and just going for it.** So much time and production can be wasted by not doing something until it's "perfect" or by comparing it to other artists artwork as if it's not good enough. **JUST KEEP MAKING STUFF!**
- 2) Staying dedicated/disciplined.** There is **always work to be done in order to improve skills** and the only way to do so is with **maximum effort**. It's so easy to get lazy and comfortable. Structure with your time and schedule is so important if you want to take things seriously.
- 3) Confidence/Self Belief.** By far the most difficult thing for myself and so many artists. **Worrying if people will dislike your artwork and about how many likes it may or may not get is a HUGE waste of imagination.** Fact: not everyone will like what you make and that shouldn't matter. There are just as many people (if not more) that will love what you do because you believe in it. Remember, you're creating for YOU first.

YOUTUBE DEMONSTRATION OF HOW TO CREATE A PAPER-PULL-OUT

