

TheCoffee ArtProject

Q & A with Milan Abad - Winner, The Coffee Art Project 2014



Q. When have you started drawing?

- A. Since I was small, I used to draw pages and pages of little stick men comics all of the time.
I used to have stacks of them. They were quite funny and super simple; I wish I could find them again, but I think my mum threw them away. I don't think I started drawing properly until I was in high school; so possibly when I was 14/15?

Q. Describe yourself in 3 words. If you can!

- A. Energetic, Strange, Stubborn

Q. What does your art mostly represent?

- A. I love anything involving life and death, but not in a depressing or dark way. I have a lot of skulls in my work, but again, not in a dark way; I am just fascinated by these subjects and people's perceptions of it. My work probably ranges from the most commercial content, from sports, fashion and music, to editorial, narrative and abstract pieces about phobias, perception and nature. I think the less constraints I have on a piece of work, the more emotionally driven and intuitive it is. I am very interested in people.

Q. Which kind of art world you close to?

A. When I was doing my A-Levels in school, the only art world I knew was old and contemporary painting. But since I specialised in Illustration at University, I would say illustration. The great thing is that it is so broad; you can have illustration that looks more like contemporary art, or work that is a lot more graphic based. Different disciplines are all starting to cross over. My work takes a very commercial route, heading down the route of popular culture; but exhibiting work as just pure art is something I will always stick at. I think being flexible is good.

Q. What do you feel when you creativity starts flowing?

A. I guess I just feel happy and focused. Usually I listen to music that really gets me in the mood, so I zone out and draw.

Q. Why did you connect coffee instantly to the project waterfall?

A. Well, I felt it was something so simple as life cycles. I thought it was all connected; coffee, it all starts from the earth, goes on a cycle and then returns to the earth; just like water. You need water for coffee and generally to live. Coffee makes people happy and so many people drink it, so it just makes sense I guess.

Q. What did you actually feel during the creation process?

A. Well I mostly felt sleep deprived and shattered. I felt excited and buzzed at first, especially during the first few all nighters. It was such an intense piece with so much work done in a very short space of time. I think the most enjoyable part was actually filling in the large ink areas; although half the time I didn't have clue if I was overdoing it.

Q. Would you like to go to Tanzania and meet the communities that you have drawn about?

A. Yes, that would be amazing.

Q. What you would like to do in your future apart being an artist? Do you have any other dream?

A. Well, I used to want to become an Olympic athlete. Another dream I had was to travel around the world discovering new places and species. Not sure if that is a job per say. I'm working on having my own t-shirt label, which is another dream of mine. Not sure if that counts since it is also creative.

Q. How does it feel to be the winner of The CAP 2014?

A. It feels amazing; I literally don't know what to say. There were so many great pieces of work that all deserved the same. So I guess I just feel lucky and very happy that hard work can pay off