

## PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

I approach life with a general sense of curiosity and a strong desire to learn. The art and design field allows me to question, discover, and grow through the process of creation. My inquisitive mind-set has led me to explore a range of creative pursuits including illustration, graphic design, web design, concept art, animation, and fine art. My final works are often illustrative and I generally find myself working in new and experimental ways that expand the traditional boundaries of the art and design disciplines by combining digital technologies with hand processes.

My work is inspired by many forms of art and communication including cartoons, comic books, fantasy novels, film, illustration, graphic design, and art history. I specifically admire the visual storytelling of comic creators Chris Ware and Craig Thompson, the communication of ideas by graphic designers Seymour Chwast and Milton Glaser, and the ingenuity of historic icon Leonardo da Vinci. Ironically, I can be equally inspired by the work of these 'greats' in their respective fields as I can a well designed business card handed to me on the street. The appreciation I have for both the applied and fine arts helps define me as an artist. I don't feel my work has to uncover some unknown universal truth or grandiose idea but instead can be a functional design, an exploration of a passing curiosity, a formal visual exercise, or telling an interesting story.

In essence, I am a curious and creative thinker who uses a pencil, pen, stylus, mouse, and keyboard to bring ideas to life. As a designer I solve visual problems for others, and as an artist I deepen my understanding of life and humanity's visual language by exploring my own interests and ideas. I practice both to grow as an artist, designer, and as a person.