



Almost Real Things

AUSTIN'S GO-TO GUIDE FOR ART

INSPIRE

CREATE

CONTRIBUTE

CAGE
FREE
LET'S FLY

FLY



 **ART BUS**

RUNS TWICE DAILY
Nov 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19
AND WEEKLY AFTER THAT!

TAKE THE BUS



Experience an exciting ride to art stops, markets, galleries & studios all around Austin.

Meet the creators who keep Austin weird, enjoy drinks & snacks and make new friends.

TOURS & RENTALS: ARTBUSTOUR.COM



Almost Real Things

This is by far ***MOST INCREDIBLE*** issue **WE HAVE EVER MADE IN OUR LIVES**, according to us.

The theme for **Issue 26** is “**HYPE**”. For us, hype is about **empowerment**. We see your work, your energy, your persistence and your contribution. **You’re an icon**. You can create the world around you, whether you’re prone to self congratulation or not.

That’s why we had the HYPE come from the artists themselves. We asked what awards they should win, what they’re best at and what makes them so good. We never made them justify their choices. We wanted them to tell us instead of others making the judgment call.

We also walked the line between inspiring confidence and making grand declarations. For us, it’s a game to see how silly we can get before people start questioning the truth. It’s all about the perceived value and whether it’s true to you or not.

That being said, **WE ARE THE #1 MAGAZINE AND ART GROUP IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE** AND YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT.

Don’t forget to read between the lines,

Natalie Earhart
Editor-in-Chief

Zachary Zulch
Creative Director

MEET THE TEAM

FOUNDING MEMBERS



NATALIE EARTHART

Founder, Editor-In-Chief
I can hardly contain myself.



ZACHARY ZULCH

Founder, Creative Director
I have HYPE-o-thermia!

A.R.T. CREW MEMBERS



**ZOE
AXELROD**

The Hag.
The Myth.
The Legend.



**JOEY
CRUZ**

I'm super
HYPE-r-active.



**LIZA
FISHBONE**

HYPE-A
personality.



**ANDREW
KIRKLAND**

It's HYPE-ning!!!!!!!



**AUGUSTA
STEPHENSON**

HYPE happens.

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Ari Newman, Armadillo Christmas Bazaar, Blue Dozen Collection, Brandon Megens, Buck Rodgers, Buddy Pajak, Daniel Wood Adams, Don Juan Rollins, DY9, Frederick Boom, Get Lost Collages, Goodtype, Hailey Gearo, Ismael Quintanilla, Jamie Brindley, Joi Conti, Katie Chance, Laura Fox-Wallis, Leta Harrison, Lindsey Millikan, MAEVOLUTION, Megan Pailin, New Origin Shop, Noella Grey and The Imaginary Band, Rewon Shimray, Sari Shryack, Tane Ward, The Bright Light Social Hour, The Happy Hooker, Thereheis. Cover photography by Joi Conti, @ joi.conti. Artist Spotlight design by Zoe Axelrod, @ zoeaxelrod.xd.

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ARTUS CO

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FEATURES



Fill in the blanks to manifest motivation—ad-lib style



Risk your life in the capital of the #1 nation on Earth



Need new music? We have these musicians on repeat



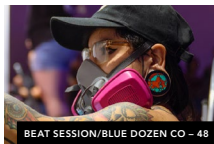
Explore a gallery of the most HYPE Austin artists



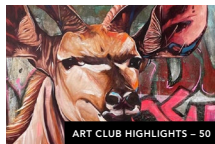
Envision your own fairytale with photographer Joi Conti



Read the tale of Austin's biggest fine art show



Breathe in Austin's greatest spray paint art battle



Learn what's new in our ART Club community



ALMOST REAL TERMINAL

REPROGRAM YOUR LIFE

UPGRADE YOUR SHIT—WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM ART CONTRIBUTORS

```
1 static int REPROGRAM() {
2     String [] remember = {
3         // Luis Angulo (ULOANG): Issue 20
4         "Focus on making daily progress";
5         // Sadé Channell: Issue 21
6         "Even the best people get knocked down, but they pick
           themselves up";
7         // Justin Galicz: Issue 23
8         "Don't get discouraged, you're going to fumble through it";
9         // Dave McClinton: Issue 18
10        "Not everyone is going to dig it, and that's a good thing";
11        // Catie Lewis: Issue 24
12        "As long as you're creating, that's what's important";
13        // The Coy Collection: Issue 23
14        "Always invest in yourself";
15        // In House Design: Issue 19
16        "You can figure out more than you think";
17        // Arielle Austin: Issue 18
18        "Play around with as many things as you want";
19        // Jay Ybarra: Issue 24
20        "If you feel confident and believe it will work, you
           should make the jump";
21    }
22    for (String memory : remember) {
23        System.out.println("committed to memory");
24    }
25    // Stay motivated
26    boolean motivated = true;
27    while (motivated) {
28        System.out.println("Stay motivated..."); // Check progress
29        if (progressIsStagnant()) {
30            motivated = false; // Lost motivation
31            System.out.println("Motivation lost--sleep & reset.");
```

HEAR & SAY

REAL & ALMOST REAL NEWS
...YOU DECIDE

We heard...

The highly anticipated
HOPE Outdoor Gallery graffiti park could maybe debut in 2024 *hopefully*. The park is nearly ready for action but, mysteriously, the graffiti keeps disappearing. At least the walls are clean!



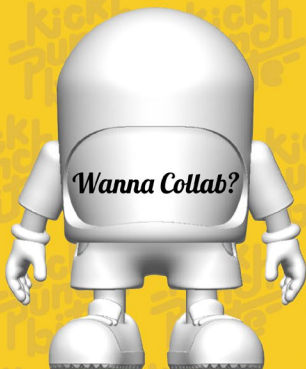
Did you know... Art collector **Richard Rees** is debuting ALMOST 100 artist commissioned skate decks this Winter at two very popular art galleries. Insiders say it's a REAL secret about where the exhibition will take place. Something's up though.

Word on the street is... The **Austin Studio Tour** is making a return for their 21st year this November. Maps will come with individual magnified glasses to help attendees locate all 570 stops.

ICYMI... The City of Austin awarded over \$6 million to local arts groups to produce cultural events. Rumor has it many awardees experienced delays in payment from third-party partner, **The Long Center**, but were assured that "their constructive feedback is helpful." We reached out to The Long Center with questions and received no response. ☒



CREATE YOUR OWN.



KICKPUNCHBITE.COM
@KICKPUNCHBITE



BELIEVE THE

HYPE

Manifest the motivation that you need to succeed. Find a partner to fill in the blanks. Take turns asking each other for words based on each category. When your list is complete, input the words in this daily affirmation and read it aloud in front of a mirror. Also read it in public. **This is your chance—you are the hype. Believe it.**

I AM A _____ . MY _____ IS AS
ANIMAL BODY PART
 _____ AS A MOUNTAIN. I AM AN UNSTOPPABLE
ADJECTIVE
 _____ . ALL I NEED IS WITHIN _____. I AM
NOUN PLACE
 _____ MY MENTAL STATE EACH DAY. I DESERVE
VERB-ING
 TO BE _____. I WILL NOT LET MY _____
EMOTION OBJECT
 DEFINE ME. TODAY I CHOOSE TO BE _____.
ADJECTIVE

MY _____ ARE MEANINGFUL AND INSPIRING.
PLURAL NOUN
 LIKE MY _____ ALWAYS SAYS, KEEP YOUR
JOB OCCUPATION
 _____ ON THE _____. EVERYBODY
BODY PART OBJECT
 _____ SOMETIMES, BUT WHEN YOU FAIL,
PLURAL VERB
 GET UP AND _____ AGAIN.
VERB



*Tip 20%—you
don't have a
choice anymore*

We simply can't
pay service workers
over \$2.13!

Collect your \$10,000 bounty

Simply sue someone aiding
and abetting an abortion
thanks to Senate Bill 8!

*Shake trees around
Greg Abbott's
Governor's Mansion*

He has a thing with trees!

*Count to 245.6 billion
with Elon Musk*

Ask him about the
benefits of apartheid!

*Take a night stroll
through Zilker Park*

Soon it will be nine
parking garages!

*Get invited to an event at the
Austin Convention Center*

It's hard! Good thing they get
85% of Austin's cultural funding!

AUSTIN AFTER DARK

Every city has its dark side.

We can't keep hyping the good sides of
Austin without also hyping the dark sides!
Take a risk—live life on the wild side with
these thrilling activities.

ACTIVITY: ZACH ZULCH

*Run your HVAC to test
the reliability of Texas's
isolated power grid*

Spoiler: it's unreliable and
ERCOT (Electric Reliability
Council of Texas) doesn't care!

Avoid 130 State Troopers

There are eight on the
Montopolis run from 71 to
183 alone—they won't leave!



Music Spotlight

Need some new tunes?
It's time to highlight five
Austin musicians we have
on repeat.

These spotlight interviews have
been shortened for print and
editorialized for maximum HYPE.
Head to almostrealthings.com
to enjoy the full conversations.

Be a part of ART!

GET YOUR MUSIC HEARD & SEEN!

ARTM.AG/MUSIC

FEATURED MUSICIANS

Noella Grey and the
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Distortion Pop

Thereheis 14
Lo-fi Hip-Hop Future Beats

The Bright Light Social Hour 16
Psychedelic Rock

Frederick Boom 18
Hip-Hop & Rap

Buck Rodgers 20
Genre Jumping DJ & Producer

LET'S HEAR IT! >

Distortion Pop: @noellagreyandtheimaginaryband

PHOTO: JAKE RABIN, © JAKERABINPHOTOGRAPHY



NOELLA GREY AND THE IMAGINARY BAND

"I LIKE THE LOVE THAT
SURROUNDS US"
-NOELLA

THIS DISTORTION POP BAND IS RUMORED
TO BE WORKING ON THEIR THIRD ALBUM.

But between Noella's recent obsession with bread making and Tony's side project restoring an old guitar, the group has had minimal time to write. They feel re-energized however, with the addition of bassist Annie Brogdon and drummer Wayne Duncan, the latter which initially filled in as a sub before becoming full time—a replacement that was mutual.

Wayne and Noella have quickly **bonded over their insomnia**, though Annie, a full-time teacher, prefers to dream about math equations.

Sources say a **rivalry may be brewing** between co-songwriters Tony Jackomis (stage name The Imaginary Band) and Noella Grey as they disagreed on their favorite past songs. It was a showdown between "Satisfaction" and "Janella." We're told the strongly heated discussion ended with Noella saying "**Do you**" and Tony retorting with, "Don't be mad because I'm doing me better than you're doing you." Superfan **Leola Cook** sided with Noella, though she may be biased as she is the lead singer's grandmother. We're told the two made up and are continuing to grow musically.

It's just in time since the band is on their way to a major moment with the recent announcement of their nomination for a **Nobel Prize**. If they win, they've requested **Big Freedia**, **Lzzy Hale** and Austin's own **Gary Clark Jr.** to present it. 📺

Lo-fi Hip-Hop Future Beats: @ Thereheis, @ __thereheis__

THEREHEIS

PRESENTED BY JOE KAY OF SOULECTION

TAKE YOUR
OWN ADVICE



PHOTO: MAX/MILIOUS STONE, @PRYEDUP

"THE ARTIST COMMUNITY AND THE EVENTS WE HOST WITH HUBBLEDVISION GOT ME STEPPING BACK INTO MY ART AND MY OWN SELF EXPRESSION"

POPULAR AUSTIN DJ AND HUBBLEDVISION (HV) KEY MEMBER THEREHEIS HAS HIS SIGHTS SET ON HIS ART.

Well known for his eclectic hip-hop/r&b/soulful beats and mixes, Thereheis has kept most of his beats in a secret vault—**location unknown**. He revealed to us that "Something Special," his personal favorite song, spoke volumes and he's waiting to release music that makes him feel as good as that one.

Fans may not need to wait much longer as he's been motivated by his close circle of friends and Mom who's reportedly telling him "Anything worth having is worth fighting for."

Thereheis has not shied away from the public eye when it comes to **HUBBLEDVISION**. The growing

community and creative satellite has been a staple in the Austin music and art scene for years now. Thereheis has been quoted saying, "As humans, it's a great thing to create and give back," a statement equally sentimental and skeptical as he emphasized that he is a human just after he learned about ART's upcoming **Alien disco**.

What we can confirm is that Thereheis has agreed to play the "greatest disco set of his life" at **Area 54** on Oct 28th. His rider, however, calls for 100 bottles of **Nesquik chocolate milk**—his current obsession. ☒

PHOTO: JESSIE RODRIGUEZ, @WEESEWAVES

BEST SONG: SOMETHING SPECIAL

"I love it because I released it at a point in my life where I needed to put something out. If I'm gonna put a song out, I want to listen to it over and over again so much that it feels good."

MUSIC SPOTLIGHT

Psychedelic Rock: 📍 The Bright Light Social Hour, @tblsh



THE BRIGHT LIGHT SOCIAL HOUR




"NO MATTER WHAT,
WE'RE ALL MATURE."
-ALFREDO

WE SNAGGED AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH JACKIE O'BRIEN & ALFREDO RODRIGUEZ OF THE BRIGHT LIGHT SOCIAL HOUR (TBLSH) IN THE BACK OF THEIR VAN IN A PARKING LOT AS THEY PLANNED THEIR TOUR'S TREK ACROSS THE CANADIAN BORDER.

They've been caught up in a **lost passport fiasco** for days, and are awaiting news to see if they'll make their show in **Montreal**.

TBLSH released their newest album, **Emergency Leisure**, earlier this summer. One critic called it "a celebratory dance party with existentialism lurking in the background." Supporting their tour is French-disco-punk sensations **Choses Sauvages**, affectionately referred to as "Sweet Sausages."

Not joining the tour is TBLSH rival **Walter Glutens**. The rumored rift was supposedly caused by the lead lighting guy for **The Black Angels**, though it is uncertain why. **Pink Floyd** is also banned from attending future TBLSH shows after Jackie was recorded on Canadian television saying, "**We're coming for you old bastards.**"

So far, the crowds have been mesmerized by TBLSH's bittersweet trippy sounds especially when the band plays their space-dance odyssey "Prefecture." One unnamed superfan shouted "This shit is so GOMP!" as he chased down the van in an **Easy Compadre!** shirt. We're told you can expect to see TBLSH on the festival circuits in 2024—unless **Walken Lukers** has anything to say about it. 

PHOTOS: NIKO STYCOS, @NIKOSTYCOS

BEST SONG: PREFECTURE

"This song from **Emergency Leisure** accomplishes a lot of things. It's a tight pop song about self love and recognizing your badass self despite someone trying to hate. The second half is this great space-dance odyssey. It gives me everything I want."

MUSIC SPOTLIGHT

Hip-Hop & Rap: ourcadeboom.com © Frederick Boom, @frederickboom



FREDERICK BOOM

FREDERICK BOOM IS BLASTING TO THE TOP WITH HIS
ORIGINAL FUSION OF HIP-HOP-HOUSE DANCE BEATS.

OURCADE

The Chicago-born star has made a name for himself in Austin only after a short 2.5 years by overcoming the stigma of Austin's reported lack of hip-hop scene. He's gained credibility with frequent performances at Austin hotspots **Coconut Club** and **Hotel Vegas**. Saturday night he was spotted with **DJ Cez** on **Neon Grotto's** rooftop.

A full-page photograph of Frederick Boom performing on stage. He is wearing a black t-shirt with 'BOURNE' printed on it, glasses, and a watch. He is holding a microphone to his mouth with his left hand and gesturing with his right hand. The background is dark with bright stage lights, including a prominent purple light source.

FUCK YEAH I WORK HARD

PHOTOS: AUSTIN HANSEN, © AUSTIN HANSEN

Frederick's been climbing the iTunes Charts, making the **Top 200**, and rumors are speculating that record labels are hoping to pen a deal with him soon. Though an unknown source close to the star says he's unsure about signing any contracts that will limit his creative freedom. It will be hard to stop his momentum, however, especially since he just won a Grammy for "Sexiest Big Guy"

"I'M MY OWN RIVAL.
GOTTA BE CAREFUL."

sponsored by **Bombay Sapphire**. His speech had sweet moments—Frederick thanked his Mom for her support—but also came with some surprises. Boom continued to sing the lyrics to **Steely Dan's** "Reelin' in the Years" before being escorted off the stage by **Pharrell**. In a follow-up interview with ART correspondent **Tessa Renee**, he had only one thing to say: "I'm big but I'm super cool." 📸

BEST SONG: PERMISSION

"Permission is my first dance song ever and it's perfect to me. A lot of people can make songs but not a lot of people can make records and that's a record."

MUSIC SPOTLIGHT


Genre Jumping DJ & Producer: ☹ Buck Rodgers, @djbucksroddgers

BUCK RODGERS

ONE OF AUSTIN'S GREATEST DJS, BUCK RODGERS, IS EXPANDING HIS MUSICAL TALENTS INTO GALAXIES UNKNOWN.

His newest project **Jumping Planets**, a collaboration with **Blackillac** co-founder **ZEALE**, has them bouncing between genres more than ever before.

The self-taught one-man drum machine is experimenting with more electronic sounds as popular hip-hop and club gigs have started to fall off his radar. Fans are eager to see what's next for the **Goldie Award World Beat Champion**. Buck knows that when he's **HYPER** focused on something, he will undoubtedly put in the work.

We believe it too. **Footage was just released from the vault** showing Buck playing drums as a kindergartner at his very first live gig, proving that he has the longevity to go all the way. Which way is that? No one knows yet. But this finger-drumming turntable aficionado exclusively told us that it will be a cinematic experience. 

#WHATTHEBUCK

BR





The Musical Cookbook *feat.*

BUCK RODGERS

Producers share their “secret recipe” for a great track within their scene. It’s less about the formula and more about the tools and workflow to expose tips and inspiration!

1 THEME

My vibe: **futuristic fingerlicious beats** with hella BUCKness. I’m never really going for a specific theme but most of my music is **dark**. Current fav BPMs are **75, 87 & 122**. I’ve been into jumping genres—more **electronic sounds**, especially **drum & bass**. I love **Splice** for taking samples and **super-stretching** them into a whole new world of sound.

2 GEAR

Everything runs through **Ableton** on my **Macbook Pro M1 Max**. I’m known for finger drumming on **Native Instruments Maschine Mk3** but I rarely produce with it. Instead I use a **M-Audio Oxygen 25 midi keyboard**. **Xfer Serum** is my go-to VST, along with **LennarDigital’s Sylenth1** and **NI Massive**, then **The God Particle** for mastering. My secret sauce: **\$50 CCA C12** in-ear monitors—I have six pairs and use them every day.

3 LIVE

I perform on a **Pioneer DJM-S11 Mixer**, two **PLX-1000 turntables**, plus my **Maschine Mk3**—but I want a **cross fader on a fucking drum machine** so I’m building my own. I convinced Pioneer to add a cross-pitch step button on their new mixer out this month. I’m a **one-man show**, adding live visuals via **APC 40**, **Roland VR-4HD switcher** and **EVGA XR1 stream deck** for a cinematic experience. Gotta keep up or get left behind. 🎮



GET A TASTE OF BUCK RODGERS

DJ / Drummer / Producer / Live Remixer
2018 Goldie Award World Beat Champion
2015 Red Bull 3Style US Finalist

🔗 djbucksrogers.com

📸 📺 📱 📺 📱 [djbucksrogers](#)



Artist Spotlight

A SHOWCASE OF INSPIRATION

The following section is composed of talented artists of all mediums. Whether art is their forte by day or their after hours outlet, these individuals live to create.

GET HYPE! For Issue 26, we asked the artists to brag about themselves, show off their talents and strike a pose in front of the camera. Our Hall of ART Board of Trustees held a top secret vote, and honored the selected artists with very prestigious, ambiguous awards. Portraits shot by Joi Conti.

CONTRIBUTE YOUR WORK

Be a part of ART!

This zine is built on collaboration. Submit finished or unfinished work you would like to feature:

ARTM.AG/SUBMIT

FEATURED ARTISTS

Sari Shryack	21
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MAEVOLUTION	34
Tane Ward	35
Ismael Quintanilla	36
Leta Harrison	37

BUY MORE ART! ALMOSTREALTHINGS.COM/SHOP

Painter: sari.studio, @not_sorry_art

SARI SHRYACK

#1 PAINTER OF

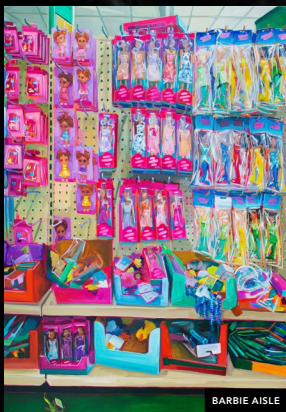
DISCO BALLS



DISCO WALL



BALLOON AISLE



BARBIE AISLE

COLOR ENTHUSIAST. *NOT SORRY.*

Sari creates bright, bold and colorful paintings that inspire while also speaking to a more sinister reality in our class structures and gender stereotypes. Her colorful works cover many different subjects and techniques including landscape, still life, portraits, disco balls and even memes.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Painter: kdchance.com, @kd.chance

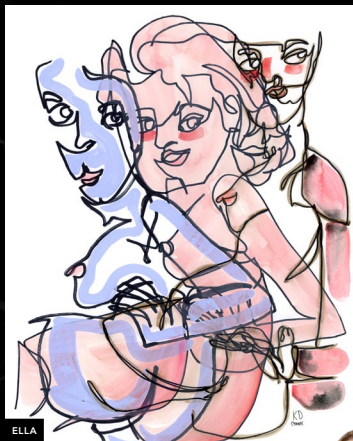
ANEMONE COLLAGE 2



CHRYSANTHEMUMS & CELOSIA



BARTON SPRINGS



ELLA

#1 MOM. SUSHI LOVER. TRAVELER.

Katie captures scenes of Austin, from wildflowers to the downtown skyline, and the feminine form with her signature style of continuous line illustrations. She views her work as a bond between nature and mindfulness.

KATIE

BEST
CROWD
SURFER

CHANCE



Painter: lindseymillikan.com, @milli_art**MURALIST.****CONTEMPORARY REALIST.**

Lindsey is a full-time contemporary realist fine art painter and muralist. She's worked on a number of large-scale public art projects and is planning a solo exhibition to show her new painting series.



KALEIDOSCOPE



SOS



CHABOT WELCOME MURAL



LINDSEY MILLIKAN

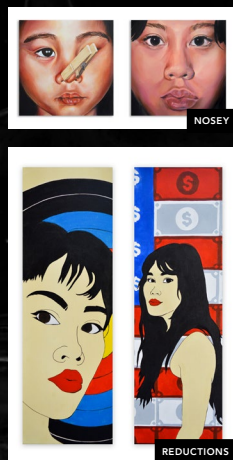
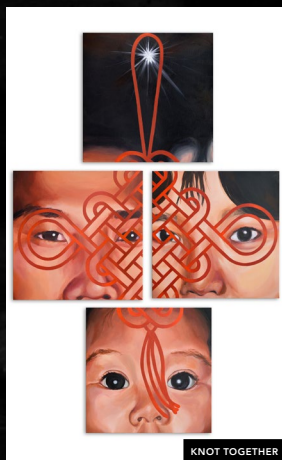
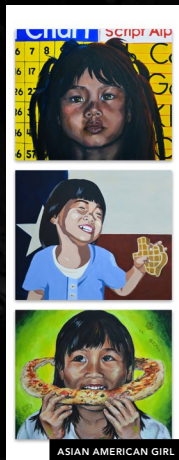
REALLY DAMN GOOD ARTIST

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Painter: rewonshimray.com, @ artbyrewon

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL. EVOLVING HUMAN. FACIAL EXPRESSIONIST.

Growing up with two ESL parents who came from divergent cultures, Rewon never viewed English as an adequate tool for communication. From a young age, art became the universal language through which Rewon felt she could be understood. Her style switches based on the message, varying between portraiture, object symbolism and cartoon illustration.



REWON
SHIMRAY

THE #1 REW-ONE

Painter: meganpailin.com, @meganpailin

#1
DRUM SKIN
ARTIST
IN AUSTIN



MEGAN PAILIN



TEXAS BORN.

BIZARRE.

CAT LOVER.

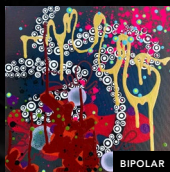
Megan is Texas born and raised. Her specialty is hand-painted drum heads. She's painted drums for big names including: Charley Crockett, Asleep at the Wheel, My Chemical Romance, Fitz and the Tantrums and Gina Chavez.



Painter: divinedisasters.com, @hailey_gearo

HAILEY GEARO

AUSTIN'S
MOST
COMPULSIVE
PAINTER



NEON PAINT COLLECTOR.
WORLD BUILDER.
SPOON BRUSH OBSESSED.

Hailey is a multi-medium abstract expressionist artist who is obsessed with color, texture, and movement. Her art is ever evolving—from female form to world building.



Collage Artist: getlostcollages.com, @getlostcollages

GET LOST COLLAGES

VOTED BEST COLLAGES TO GET LOST IN



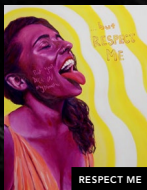
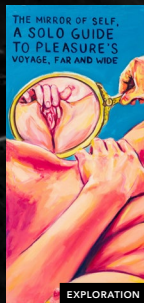
KARAOKE CONNOISSEUR. **HOWLS AT THE MOON.**

Steven Ecker is a collage artist getting lost in the creative process. Steve started collaging as a way to disconnect from technology and explore his imagination. He finds immense joy in ripping and tearing up magazines to create a new piece of art.

Painter: theartistari.com, @the.artist.ari

ARI NEWMAN

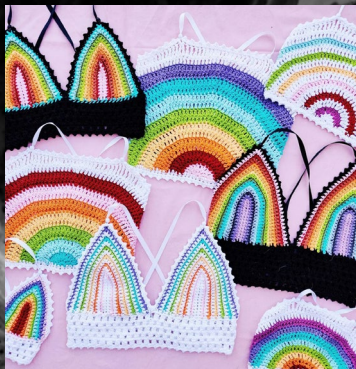
THE
FEMINIST
FUTURIST
OF FINE ART



BLUE-HAIRED MAESTRO. ADVOCATE. **BOLD.**

Ari is deeply influenced by intersectional feminist themes. Their vibrant oil paintings are a fusion of abstract and figurative elements that challenge societal perceptions of femininity and identity.

Fiber & Crochet Artist: happyhookeratx.bigcartel.com, @happyhookeratx



BUSINESS OWNER.

FIBER ARTIST. **HAPPY.**

Micayla McMurray is the founder & fiber artist behind The Happy Hooker, the most colorful crochet brand in Austin. Micayla teaches "Get Hooked" crochet classes and hosts crochet meetups all over the city.

THE HAPPY

HOOKER

THE MOST TALENTED CROCHETER

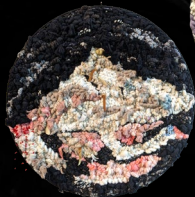




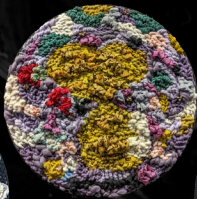
JAMIE

#1
CAT
LADY
FIBER
ARTIST

BRINDLEY



ODETTE



WEAVING FOR THE SPIRITS



THE EARTH'S ROTATION



THE ORACLE

INTUITIVE. SELF-TAUGHT.

WEAVER.

Approaching art as alchemy is an important aspect of Jamie's creation process. From working with naturally dyed fibers to turning scraps of yarn and fabric into intricately woven finished works, every piece is about the transformation.

Silk Painter: rootedexpressions.com, @rootedexpressionsstudio

LAURA FOX-WALLIS



MASTER SILK PAINTER



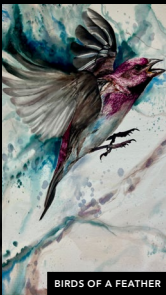
DEPARTURE



TULIPS



INTO THE LIGHT

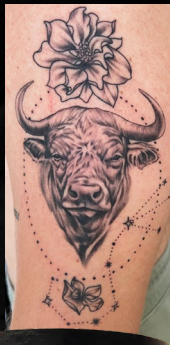


BIRDS OF A FEATHER

ORGANIZED. IKEA FAN. **FREE FLOWING.**

Laura layers color on silk to create form and texture, counting missteps as design elements that are sometimes more beautiful and interesting than the original concept. She describes painting with dyes on silk like a dance of control.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Tattoo Artist & Illustrator: tattoos2u.com, @tattoos.2u**MOBILE. VERSATILE. STUNNA.**

Brandon is a tattoo artist but loves working with all types of media including graphite, markers, color pencils and inks. He brings his talent to you by offering one-of-a-kind flash tattoos at events all over the city.



AUSTIN'S BEST
SON OF A GUN

BRANDON

MEGENS



Wood Artist: danielwadams.com, @danieladamsart


DANIEL WOOD ADAMS

THE MOST POPULAR ARTIST IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

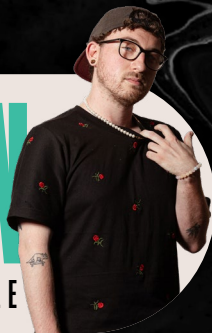


STILL HAS 10 FINGERS.
WOOD GUY.

Daniel is a multi-talented woodworker, graphic designer, illustrator and musician. In addition to his wood characters, Daniel has recently been working on album art for his band Bat Lips.

MAEVOLUTION

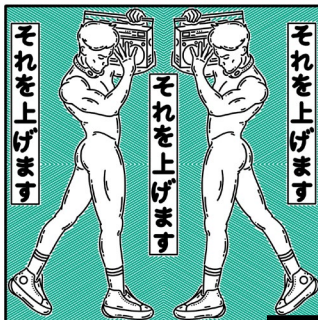
VOTED MOST CONSISTENT ART STYLE



MINIMALIST.

WEARS BEANIES DURING
THE SUMMER.

MAEVOLUTION pulls inspiration from tattoo artistry—specifically Neo-Traditional and Japanese style tattooing. Mason enjoys taking a simple snapshot and transforming it into something wild and trippy.



Writer: @alchemy.through.art

I love what you do to me
 You transform me with your Alchemy
 You bring my sulfur and mercury together
 You distill me in your laboratory
 You change me with your power
 I am elemental within your mastery
 I am gold

With no pen or microphone to record the poem
 I had no choice but to speak it into the air
 It emerged like smoke from paper already burnt
 To conceal my truth

I gave to heaven my words
 When I spoke aloud that I love you
 And that I think of you every day
 What else could I do?

I left no physical trace of my secret
 Yet stained the spirit with my truth

POET. TRUTHFUL. LOVED.

Ricardo "Tane" Ward Ramirez writes poetry, nonfiction and fiction focused on mythology, mysticism, social justice and indigenous knowledge. His first book was published in 2019 and he's planning on releasing two more books next year.

I am tobacco
 An offering made to the Earth
 I am given and received

I am the wafer and I am the wine
 I am not the church walls soaked in gold and blood
 Nor the fool who prays within them

I am the roots of the tree
 Receiving from the Earth
 And the crown that gives to the sky
 I am the trunk that stands between them
 I am the portal to abundance

I am the queen who embodies
 The elegance and beauty of her people
 I am not the mob clashing at the gates
 To depose of their unattainable reflection

The sediment of sand builds over centuries
 To create a pattern that dazzles in the sun
 Not to make a cool rock to wither away
 In a collection in your cupboard

I am to be admired and received as a blessing
 A humble offering of tobacco taken from a leather pouch
 And set free upon the wind
 To scatter across all of creation
 With permission to exist
 I comply with my orders



TANE
 THE #1
 VERSION
 OF TANE
WARD

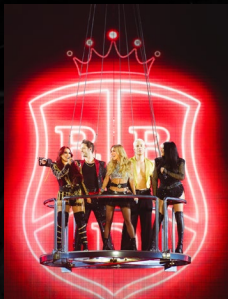
ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Photographer: iq3photo.com, @ismaelquintanillaiii

PHOTO PIT REGULAR.

DREAM FOLLOWER.

After quitting his Electrical Engineer corporate job, Ismael began traveling across the world working with music festivals, bands, and anything music related to capture magical moments through photos. Photography has been the vehicle to discover more about the people, the Universe, and himself.

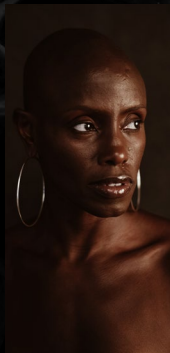


MOST LIKELY TO INSPIRE YOU TO QUIT YOUR CORPORATE JOB

ISMAEL QUINTANILLA



Photographer: @letakphotography



PROFOUND.**COMMUNITY CONNECTOR.**

Leta reignited her photography career after moving to Austin from Washington D.C. She has a passion for street photography and photojournalism and brings an authentic storytelling element to her work.

**LETA****FUTURE
PHOTOGRAPHER
FOR TIME
MAGAZINE****HARRISON**

ON THE COVER

Photographer: joiconti.com, @joi.conti

on the cover



FEATURING



WHEN DID YOU PICK UP PHOTOGRAPHY?

Well I've had a camera ever since I was little—I had a pink Barbie sticky film camera—and my mom always told me to take photos. I started taking it seriously at age 13. DeviantArt and Neopets were becoming a thing and people were taking photos of themselves in surreal scenarios (which I didn't realize was photo manipulation). I would set up my room and try to tell fairytales and stories through my work. After high school, I decided to go to school for photography at Rochester Institute of Technology and got my BA in Advertising Photography.

HOW DID YOU MAKE YOUR WAY TO AUSTIN?

I grew up in Queens, NY and the Philippines. Then I lived in Northern CA until I moved to Austin in 2020. I was missing a creative community that was receptive, and I remember feeling that when I visited Austin. I found my creative community here and I've met so many people who want to collaborate. We get to celebrate each other and be vulnerable at the same time. This feels like home.




WHAT STYLE IS YOUR FAVORITE?

Anything that plays with scale and fairytales. I like things that are leaning more towards fantastical, to go where people never think of going. I think I live there already. I find the extraordinary and exaggeration in the everyday. That's why I'm into editorial. I get to create the story with whoever I'm collaborating with—the wackier, the better.

HOW DID THE TAYO NA GUIDE START?

Originally I just wanted to photograph Austin Filipino artists and that was going to be it. But I realized it needed to be bigger to say, "hey we're here!" I applied for a grant where I said I'd use the money for this guide, and then I got it. I didn't realize how big the project would get. The grant was the push I needed. For months I've been working with Travis San Pedro of Sacheverell and Lisa Crawford of lisa.lisa. Without them I'd be in emotional pieces.

DESCRIBE OUR "HYPE" ISSUE COVER

The cover felt like riding a frenzied whimsical roller coaster topped with red sprinkles. Lots of great emotions, lots of great ideas, lots of balloons (but we can probably use more balloons). 

BLUEBONNET BALLET WITH ALEXA CAPAREDA & MOTH MYSTICALS



39
JOI CONTI

TAYO NA

A GUIDE TO AUSTIN FILIPINO ARTISTS AND MAKERS

Tayo Na is a guide to Austin Filipino Artists and Makers through an editorial photography story where you follow the guests of a Kamayan holiday dinner accidentally running into each other at different stores.

Tayo na in Tagalog means 'let's go' or 'it's our turn', an apt way to encourage artists and makers to step forward and show Austin and the world what they pour their hearts into.



AUSTINFILIPINO.COM

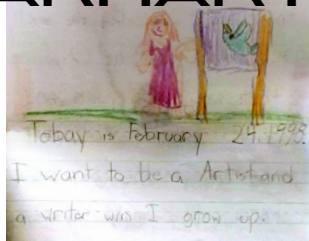
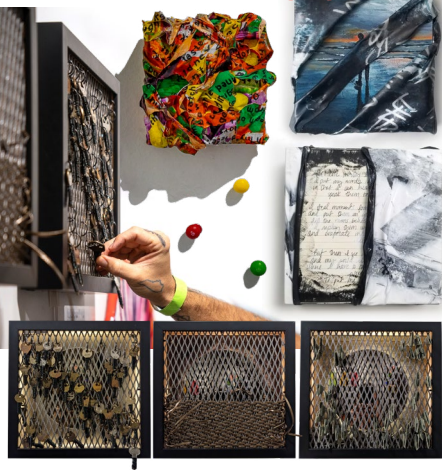
In 2015 we stopped being people and we became ART.

We metamorphosized into physical forms of expression and imagination. For the cover, we became boundless energies of creativity. No one can stop ART from happening.



NATALIE EARHART

WRITER. MIXED MEDIA MANIPULATOR



Despite feeling lost for most of my life, I suppose I did know what I wanted to be, even at a young age. I write and I make. I combine art and writing to create tactile, interactive pieces. I use materials like dried paint, shoelaces and keys to both hide and reveal my thoughts, allowing myself to be vulnerable without consequence.



PHOTOS: JOI CONTI, @JOI.CONTI

ZACHARY ZULCH

CREATIVE DIRECTOR. GRAPHIC DESIGNER. GENRE JUMPER.

While my expertise lies in the world of graphic design, being surrounded by so many talented, active artists inspires me to create in the physical world whenever I can. My work is heavily influenced by music and my 17-year DJ career, along with my synesthesia that makes me see colors in words, sounds and smells.



Designers, Letterers, & Calligraphers: goodtype.us, @goodtype

Goodtype

HYPED ON TYPE

KERN YOU TAKE IT?

WORDS: ZACH ZULCH

**They met at Goodtype.
Now they are Goodtype.**

It's a place for type lovers to connect, nerd out, and level up.

Bode Robinson founded the community on Instagram in 2013 and handed the reins to Ilana Griffio and Katie Johnson in 2021. Along with an expansive community of artists, letterers and designers, Katie and Ilana inherited a global audience.

Before they started running Goodtype, Katie and Ilana were lettering artists on similar trajectories.

They left Art Director positions to explore their entrepreneurial sides. Their similar experiences made them a perfect yin and yang when working on something even larger.

This Nov. 1–3, they're hosting their 2nd annual Kernference: a 3-day virtual summit designed to bring the typography community together. It features talks, demos, and panels from heavy hitters and emerging talent in the industry. The reach is infinite. People from all different styles of art and perspectives of human experience come together from around the world to do what they love the most—get super nerdy about type!



ILANAGRIFFIO.COM, @ILANAGRIFFIO

KATIEMADETHAT.COM, @KATIEMADETHAT

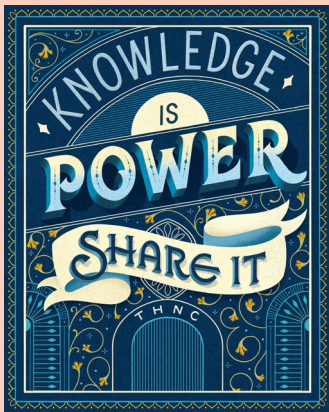


Equally important is the emphasis on the business side of creativity to give artists the resources they need to make money from their passion.

Just like design, learning to run a business was a process. “It’s weird—when you step into a new role and you feel like you should get some sort of certificate but there’s none of that. You just make up your title and keep saying it,” Katie leveled. “There’s a huge learning curve—diving into things that you don’t know how to do... figuring it out, learning, failing.”

The process of it all clearly excites them. Now they are using their experience to build an inviting, accessible community and Kernference with mentorship on how to *successfully* apply your creative skills to business. “We underestimate the power of creating your own world.

We can imagine and be creative to figure it out and with a little ambition you’re there,” Katie shares. Creativity is the path and the solution. The best thing you can do is “enjoy what you’re doing and survive doing it.”

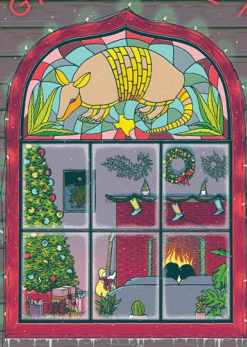


Annie Atkins		Andy J. Pizza	Arley Torson & Morgan Calderini	Jessica Korthuis	NOVEMBER 1 - 3, 2023
Amy & Jen Hood		Sarah Acevedo	Erin McManness	David Milan	2023 LINEUP
Scott Biersack		Marie Coleman-Johns	Ndubisi Okoye	Nubia Navarro & David Bonilla	The Kernference
Huyen Dinh		Maggie Enterrios	Meera Lee Patel	Phoebe Nelson	Virtual Event for Artists & Designers
Alanna Flowers		Elizabeth Goodspeed	Sam Roberts	Frieda Rub	THEKERNFERENCE.COM
Bob Ewing		Alli Koch	Marley Soden	Eso Tolson	AND HOSTS:
					Alana Griffo & Katie Johnson

PERCEPTION IS EVERYTHING

WORDS: ZACH ZULCH

INTERVIEW WITH ANNE JOHNSON



**ARMADILLO
CHRISTMAS**
B A Z A A R®

December 15–23
11AM–9:30PM DAILY
PALMER EVENTS CENTER
ARMADILLOBAZAAR.COM

Armadillo Christmas Bazaar (ACB) has changed a lot since its humble beginnings in 1976, and so has its perception.

Anne Johnson joined the ACB family when she was five years old so her understanding of the early years relies on mysteriously shrouded stories from the then inner circle.

It all began at Armadillo World Headquarters when Lucinda Williams told Bruce Willenzik, AWHQ kitchen manager, “too bad the artists down on the drag don’t have a warm, dry place like this to sell their art for Christmas.” AWHQ was Austin’s premiere concert venue, a counter-cultural institution known for out-of-the-box thinking and big shows including Willie Nelson, Jerry Garcia and Van Morrison. It was a magnet for creative energy

and now, thanks to Lucinda and Bruce, the cultural hub expanded its influence into the art world.

At AWHQ and ACB’s next venues, including Austin Music Hall, the environment was more akin to a nightclub—focused on the music and the party, but showed great potential for growth throughout the decades.

Making the jump to the Convention Center in 2008 and then Palmer Events Center in 2010 opened a lot of doors for Armadillo—buyers felt comfortable spending more money, they upgraded from 8,000 sq. ft. to 44,000, and professional touring artists from around the country began to flock. ACB is still the only fine art show on the national circuit.

2010 also happened to be the year that Anne stepped into a producer role at



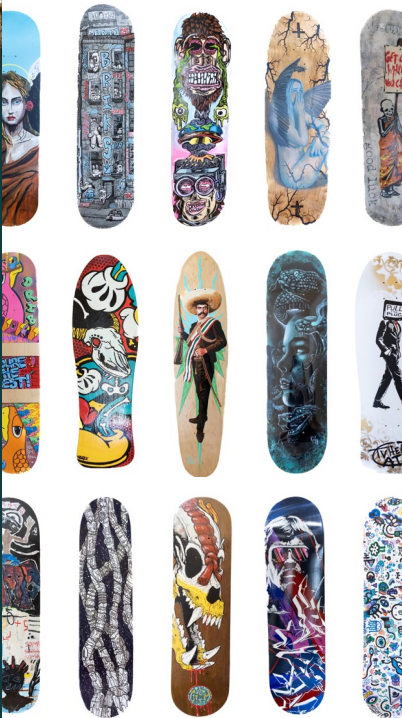
the Bazaar. She had seen the growth and learned Bruce's world to carry on the torch as an institution where Austin artists can step up to the national level. Anne's goal is to identify up-and-coming talent to offer mentorship and materials to help them grow and find success at ACB and beyond.

Anne is full of advice. When I told her this issue is themed HYPE, she knew exactly what we were talking about: confidence. We launched into conversation and she ended with, "Buyers can see how you value your work and they're going to mirror that. Perception is everything."

Zooming out, we can find a parallel with ACB's history. When they were a holiday party market, people partied. Now as a one-of-a-kind fine art institution featuring over 200 artists, people buy art. Of course they've also kept their music side thriving—four bands will perform each day this year. Plus, we at Almost Real Things will be bringing out some gifts and fun for this year's interactive Armadillo Artway just outside the front doors from Dec 15-17.

Throughout all of Austin's growth, ACB has played to its strengths while staying flexible enough to stand the test of time. "I'm happy for Austin! I'm happy that the Bazaar has been able to grow with it. One of the wonderful things about new Austin is that we're still here!" 🍷

OLLIE Y'ALL BETTER COME



DECK THE WALLS

FRI, DEC 1 & SAT, DEC 2: 6-10PM
• AT •



Almost Real Things & ARTUS CO

NEW ORIGIN SHOP

**CURATED PRODUCTS & GIFTS FROM BLACK-OWNED,
WOMAN-OWNED MAKERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

WORDS: NATALIE EARHART, NEWORIGIN.SHOP, @NEWORIGINSHOP

In 2017, Sierra Johnson started New Origin Shop as a passion project.

She made and sold her hand-crafted fiber wares online and in pop-up markets and bonded with the community of makers. After experiencing her hobby's growth from side hustle to full-time, she decided to reach even higher, opening a brick and mortar boutique in the Hill Country Galleria.

Now two years in, New Origin Shop is a destination to buy unique, high quality and sustainable products from local, national and international small businesses.

PHOTO: @FEMFORCEAUSTIN



LEFT & RIGHT PHOTOS: JANE YUN, @JANEYUNH



"It was really just me trying to express myself and sell the big pile of things I was creating."

HOW DID YOU GET THIS GOOD?

It's a beautiful mix of natural gifts, passion, interest and putting the work in. It takes a lot of behind the scenes and putting yourself out there so you can learn and grow—that's how you get good.

OUT OF 10,000 HOURS, HOW MANY HAVE YOU PUT IN?

A gajillion. I graduated from fashion marketing in 2011. And it's 2023, so... I put in a lot of dang time.

WHAT'S YOUR INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE?

What I've been saying to myself a lot lately is, "success comes from being comfortable in the discomfort." The more comfortable I get in this uncomfortable position the more in tune and grounded I am.

WHO'S YOUR BIGGEST CHEERLEADER?

My biggest fan is my #1 husband Sean, aka the greatest intern. He does everything from store design to janitorial. He is a firm, grounding presence and reminds me of what my worth is, what I'm capable of and what I have accomplished.

DO YOU TAKE YOUR OWN ADVICE?

I think that I take my own advice once I get through the negative self talk. I could take advice quicker if I could push aside the self doubt and overthinking.

WHO ELSE DO YOU WANT TO HYPE UP?

I want to shout out all the small businesses who are out here putting in the good work—the hours that are unseen, juggling everything—and sharing it with the world. And the folks who support us, see us and uplift us. 📧





BEAT SESSIONS & BLUE DOZEN COLLECTIVE



WORDS: NATALIE EARHART

Once a month on a Monday evening, I find myself among a joyous community inhaling paint fumes, throwing dollar bills into buckets and watching some of Austin's most *HYPE* artists challenge each other to a paint battle.

It's Beat Sessions—an ephemeral creative showdown centered around uplifting artists and just having fun making art—something that is often overshadowed by deadlines and obligations once you reach a certain level in your career.

It's a IYKYK kind of event, underground enough to remain cool but not so exclusive that anyone feels unwelcome. Newcomers quickly turn into regulars as the communal atmosphere is as intoxicating as the spray paint.



ARTIST LEFT: CANDY KUO, @TSCANDYKUO. ARTIST RIGHT: KIMIE FLORES, @KIMIEFLORES



PHOTOS: TONY MORENO, @DARKMODE PHOTO

Beat Sessions is a collaboration between Blue Dozen Collective (BDC), Spokesman Coffee, Goose Prints, MC Dee Green, Darkmode Photo, Abe "The Ambassador" and even more creatives donating their time, connections and talent to make something beautiful for the community.

What is now one of Texas's longest running paint battles was the brainchild of BDC members Briks & FISH, the former who also co-founded BDC back in 2008 after moving to Austin from Houston.

For Briks, forming BDC was a push for character-based artists like himself to work together rather than individually.

Today BDC is a collective of 37 artists and still growing. Though Texas is home base, there are artists based in Austria, New York and Tennessee.

FISH describes it as artist hospitality: "It's a family network that you can take advantage of with art at the core."

"We're here for the people that don't fit in elsewhere." ~Briks

Beat Sessions is a consistent touch point with the community and a celebration of everyone's growth. With its success, BDC plans to expand their outreach, specifically to let kids and young artists know about the opportunities out here for them.

"We want artists to know you can create these opportunities for yourself," shares Briks. "You don't have to be in Austin or be invited to do something creative. You can make the thing." 🎨





ART Club

What's good in the neighborhood?

Our ART Club community is flourishing across the country! Here's an update from a few of our members and the cool things they've been up to recently.

Everyone is welcome! Join at artclubtx.com

Buddy Pajak

I grew up in the MTV generation. I used to spend hours drawing the animated characters I saw on TV. The creepy elements in my art represent my fascination with the uncanny, the eerie and the dynamic. It's a way to channel my enthusiasm for experimentation and immerse myself in the worlds that have influenced my childhood.

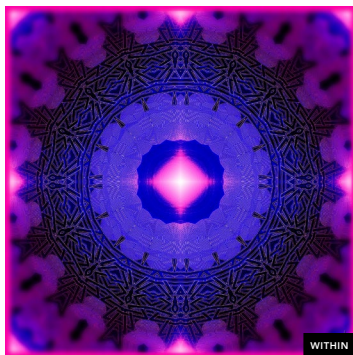
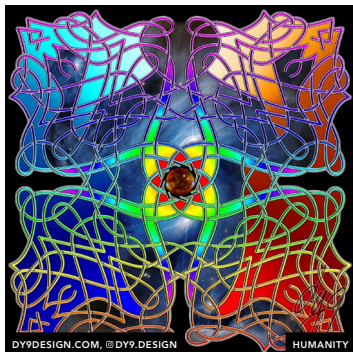


BUDDYPAJAK.COM, @BUDDY_PAJAK



DY9

My artwork is a fusion of modern technology and Celtic design. I create a unique visual experience that bridges the past and the future. I weave intricate knot-work patterns, constructing meaning and harmony with subconscious symbolism, reflecting both my Celtic heritage and a fascination with art and reality.



Don Juan Rollins

We're a nomadic family of artists, here to help keep Austin weird. We make pop art, custom sneakers and apparel. Our influences are sports, music, cartoons and the nostalgia of the 80s and 90s.



DISCOVER THE BEST OF AUSTIN'S VIBRANT CREATIVE SCENE

ALMOSTREALTHINGS.COM

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Send your creative work of any genre to be featured in an article, interview or our spotlight sections. Remember: everything is ART! hello@almostrealthings.com

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Partnering with ART is a great opportunity to connect with the huge creative market here in Austin and online. Ask for info at partner@almostrealthings.com



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