

Matthew Craven

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After some years spent working as a freelance circus entertainer, I decided to pursue a life-long love of drawing. I recently graduated from Norwich University College of the Arts in 2011 where I achieved a first-class (BA) honours degree in illustration. Ideas for my images come from growing up in a Northern ex-fishing town and its' conjoined grotty seaside resort. I like poorly reproduced toys, souvenirs, regional ephemera and photographs. I work in small-scale sculpture and hand drawn monoprints to produce lo-fi illustrations. Using black humour, a limited pallet, an unfussy attitude and quotidian subject matter I try to go against the grain of much contemporary British illustration.

Education:

2011 - BA (Hons) Illustration, First-class honours, Norwich University College of the Arts.

2006 - Adobe Illustrator Advance at Cryptic Peach, Manchester.

2004 - National Open College Network, Business Planning.

2004 - Adobe Illustrator, Media Training, London.

2003 - Grimsby College of Art & Design, BTEC Diploma. Foundation Art & Design.

Software:

Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Premiere, Dreamweaver. Apple Final Cut Pro.

Work Experience:

D&AD Student Representative 2011

Shrinkmap Ltd, cartographer 2008 – present

The Project, lead newspaper illustrator 2009

Focus-7 Ltd, film editor 2007 - 20010

Meniscus Film Festival, link animator 2007

Community Website Project, website designer 2004 - 2005

Earthbound Misfits, circus entertainer and workshop leader 1999 - 2008

Clients and Publications:

Mail Me Art: Medium Without a Message – Mr & Mrs Swing – Focus 7 - FuRor Zine - Shrinkmap Ltd – VETO - Carpaccio Magazine 12 & 13 - The Project Paper - Cut-Click - Storehouse Magazine 2, 3, 4 & 5 – Drawings for Summer time - Pocketful Illustration Magazine 4 & 5 - Dirt Cheap Magazine.

Interviewed in:

2010 - Squidge Mag, with Ed Clews

2009 - Fallyrag Arts & Culture Journal, with Jon Morse

Awards:

Winner, Jonathan Colam-French Scholarship 2010

First place, John Riches Drawing Prize 2009

Shows:

July 2011 - D&AD New Blood. Old Truman Brewery, Brick Lane, London, UK.

June 2011 - Norwich University College of the Arts Degree Show, Norwich, UK.

March 2011 - The Illustration Auction. Norwich, UK.

May 2010 – Dead Good Discotheque, Norwich, UK.

April 2010 - Mail Me Art: Medium Without a Message. Red Gate Gallery, London, UK.

March 2010 - Outerspace. Boulevard du Pont d'Arve, Geneva, Switzerland.

December 2009 - Showcase-London. Café 1001, Brick Lane, London, UK.

November 2009 - Gallery Christmas Show. The Gallery, Norwich, UK.

August 2008 - Art Bar, Cleethorpes, UK.