Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.

Learning to draw [a lot]

Benjamin Johnson



February 2023

Abstract

I am a serial drawer.

I draw a lot.

I have drawn for many many years and I have made many many books.

I draw to contemplate the immediacy of the moment.

I draw using a very pared back set of parameters that specify the drawing tool paper, size and drawing field.

Each of these are considered in the regularity of drawing as a generative and durational habit.

I draw for myself but also for the viewer, not reader, to interact and engage with the work.

My books are made as gifts to friends and strangers in private and the public sphere; they do not feel comfortable in galleries nor the drawings on walls or in frames.

I believe in the sociability of drawing as a verb and a noun.

The gesture of drawing is everything and yet it is not a symbolic or representational narrative.

The exegesis takes the form of video recorded conversations between MFA candidate Benjamin Johnson and Professor Julieanna Preston, MFA programme Leader.

The exegesis can be accessed and downloaded here for the sake of the examination:

https://vimeo.com/800416812

At a later date, it can be accessed via Massey University's online library portal.

Bibliography

Berliner, P. (1994). *Thinking in jazz: The infinite art of improvisation* (Chicago Studies in Ethnomusicology CSE). University of Chicago Press.

Bey, T. & Bailey, W. (2012). *Unofficial release: Self-Released and handmade audio In post-industrial society*. Belsona Books Ltd.

Bitterli, K. (1998). Jonathan Lasker 1977-1997. Cantz.

Brialey, L., Clarke, M., Cook, R. T., Darowski, J. J., Gordon, I., Kannenberg Jr., G., Lehman, C. P., McCarthy, A. C., Owen, B., Saguisag, L., Saunders, J., Segrave, J. O. & Tisserand, M. (2017). *The comics of Charles Schulz: The good grief of modern life*. University Press of Mississippi.

Bruce, C. F. (2019). *Painting publics: Transnational legal graffiti scenes as spaces for encounter*. Temple University Press.

Deforge, M. (2014). Ant colony. Drawn and Quarterly.

Demers, J. (2010). *Listening through the noise: The aesthetics of experimental electronic music*. Oxford University Press.

Duncombe, S. (2017). *Notes From underground: Zines and the politics of alternative culture*. Microcosm Publishing.

Feld, S. (2012). Jazz cosmopolitanism in Accra: Five musical years in Ghana.

Fikentscher, K. (2000). "You Better Work!" Underground dance music in New York City. Wesleyan University Press.

Fink, R. (2005). *Repeating ourselves: American minimal music as cultural practice*. University of California Press.

Fisher, M. (2012). Capitalist realism: Is there no alternative? Zero Books.

Fleener, M. (1996). Life of the party. Fantagraphics.

Gerber, A. (2017). The Work of Art: Value in Creative Careers. Stanford University Press.

Groth, G., Maltin, L., Colwin, L. & Marschall, R. (2020). What cartooning really is: The major interviews with Charles M. Schulz. Fantagraphic.

Hegarty, P. (2007). Noise music. Continuum.

Kunka, A. J. (2017). Autobiographical comics. Bloomsbury Publishing PLC.

Kwa, S. (2020). *Regarding frames: Thinking with comics in the twenty-first century*. RIT Cary Graphics Art Press.

Kyle, P. (2014). Distance mover. Koyama Press.

Lewis, G. (2009). *A power stronger than itself: The AACM and American experimental music*. University of Chicago Press.

Licona, A. C. (2013). *Zines in third space: Radical cooperation and borderlands rhetoric*. State University of New York Press.

Luhmann, N. (2000). Art as a social system. Stanford University Press.

Madrid, A. L. (2008). *Nor-tec Rifa!: Electronic dance music from Tijuana to the world*. Oxford University Press.

Marder, L. (1995). Larry Marder's Beanworld: A most peculiar comic book experience! Book One. Beanworld Press.

Marder, L. (1996). *Larry Marder's Beanworld: A most peculiar comic book experience! Book Two*. Beanworld Press.

Marder, L. (1997). *Larry Marder's Beanworld: A most peculiar comic book experience! Book Three*. Beanworld Press.

McCloud, S. (2001). *Understanding comics*. HarperCollins Publishing Inc.

Miodrag, H. (2015). *Comics and language: Reimagining critical discourse on the form*. University Press of Mississippi.

Molotiu, A. (2009). *Abstract comics: The anthology 1958-2008*. Fantagraphics.

Peters, P. (2009). *The philosophy of improvisation*. University of Chicago Press.

Piepmeir, A. (2009). Girl zines: Making media, doing feminism. NYU Press.

Pizzino, C. (2016). Arresting development: Comics at the boundaries of literature.

Porter, E. (2002). What is this thing called jazz?: African American musicians as artists, critics, and activists. University of California Press, 2002.

Schulz, C. M. (2004). The complete Peanuts 1950-1952: Volume 1. Fantagraphics.

Schulz, C. M. (2010). The complete Peanuts 1975-1976: Volume 13. Fantagraphics.

Schulz, C. M. (2016). The complete Peanuts 2001-2002: Volume 26. Fantagraphics.

Singer, M. (2019). *Breaking the frames: Populism and prestige in comics studies*. University of Texas Press.

Small, C. (1998). Musicking: The meanings of performing and listening. Wesleyan University Press.

Snakepit, B. (2015). Snakepit gets old: Daily diary comics 2010 - 2012. Microcosm Publishing.

Snakepit, B. (2016). Manor threat: Snakepit Comics 2013-2015. Microcosm Publishing.

van Maanan, H. (2014). *How to study art worlds: On the societal functioning of aesthetic values*. Amsterdam University Press.

Veal, M. (2007). Dub. Wesleyan University Press.

Vlastos, G. (1991). Socrates, ironist and moral philosopher. Cornell University Press.

Woodring, J. (2013). Fran. Fantagraphics.

Woodring, J. (2016). Weather craft. Fantagraphics.