

Joey Dean's CV



PROFILE

Toadstool Illustrates is an LGBTQ-run Art & Apparel Online Storefront selling stickers, prints, zines, tote bags, patches, enamel pins, and other printed media infusing feminism and witchcraft with a touch of humour.

Joey "Toadstool" Dean is a 2nd-Generation Canadian Artist working to provide representation and fight for other Queers in his community through his art practice and local underground Zine Club and his online store Toadstool's Gift Shop.

BIOGRAPHY

Canadian Transgender artist Joey Dean creates his own pop-surrealist twist on feminism with a touch of comedy. Resonating with the Surrealists and Romanticists, as well as the work of American-Traditional tattoo artists, Dean's work warps perception with contorted perspective of misplaced features — often poetic and bold, sometimes even graceful — creating optical illusions and dreamy images.

His award-winning abstract paintings and surrealist illustrations have been featured in half a dozen independent publications while also showcasing in local galleries and libraries in his community of Hamilton, Ontario.

While his passion for painting dates back to 2012, many of Dean's recent works are digital design and printmaking. Initially studying Environmental Engineering, Dean left his final year to pursue his art and completed a second program in Arts and Design at Mohawk Institute of Technology in 2018. There, he studied printing and digital art technologies; more skills to add to his repertoire.

He is currently working on providing representation for marginalized and Queer* folks through his apparel designs at Toadstool Illustrates, while writing helpful creative informational content for other creative businesses and indie artists at The Artist Journal(dot)CA while working for The Cold Strawberries Collective.

EDUCATION & SKILLS

MOHAWK COLLEGE: ARTS AND DESIGN FOUNDATIONS, GRADUATED 2018

Studied graphic design, illustration, figure drawing, typography, elements of animation and character design; by the end of the program I had produced printed stationary—notepads, notebooks, pens and t-shirts—as well as vector design for laser cutting and designing for print using Adobe Suite.

DUNDAS VALLEY SCHOOL OF ART: PRINTMAKING (1 YEAR)

Studied silkscreening using various techniques to experiment with printing onto a variety of mediums. After getting a taste for the digital printing process I had to get my hands on more traditional print techniques, which would later fuel my zine-making.

STATEMENT

Canadian Transgender Illustrator, Joey Dean, is currently working on providing representation for other transgender artists through his current projects: his illustration challenge #52WeeksOfComics, his LGBTQ+ apparel brand Toadstool Illustrates and his ongoing work with The Cold Strawberries Collective.



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His pop-surrealism expresses a sadness and bittersweet nostalgia for growing up invisible; LGBTQ+ in a time and place where that didn't exist. He strives to highlight the similar narratives within his community—such as the importance of acceptance over tolerance and the intersections of mental health and being *Queer—through his comics and local Zine Club.

“Being a Trans-Man definitely plays a huge role in my life and my artwork and being in the LGBTQ+ community has given me the opportunity to meet so many other wonderful people—both other Queer* creators and the people who passionately support what I do.”

Toadstool Illustrates is what enables Joey to participate in local markets—from Toronto to London (Ontario)—and allows him to connect with his community. Because of his current circumstances, Joey is still working to remain visible in isolation via live-streaming art every Sunday on his Twitch channel from his small bedroom studio. Joey draws in several different styles, using bold strokes and soft colour palettes with the majority of his work using crisp black lines and various elements from traditional tattoo art and LGBTQ+ culture.

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

ARTIST & CRAFT VENDOR AT HAMILTON PRIDE FESTIVAL; GAGE PARK, HAMILTON, ON - JUNE 2018 & 2019

My first outdoor marketplace was at the festival selling my designs on patches and pins as well as bags and wallets.

VENDOR, PUNK ROCK FLEA MARKET HAMILTON; HAMILTON, ON - MAY 2017 TO ONGOING

A collective of local Punk artists and crafters, doing events about 5 times every year.

FEATURED ARTIST IN ARTS OF AUGUST - YOUTH ART SHOWCASE; THE SPICE FACTORY, HAMILTON, ON - AUG. 2018

I was approached at Hamilton Art Crawl to have one of my paintings in this event held by a local charity, Living Rock Ministries, aiming to give young artists a free opportunity to show their work.

FEATURED ARTIST IN ENIGMA ART SHOWCASE; THE COTTON FACTORY, HAMILTON, ON. - OCT. 2016

I had three of my illustration pieces in an indie pop-up art exhibition.

VENDOR, FEMINISTMAS BY LONDON FEMINIST FAIR, LONDON, ON - DEC. 2018

I sell hand-painted patches as well as prints of my illustrations at this, and other local markets, such as:

- Punk Rock Flea Market Guelph; Guelph, ON—June 2018, December 2019
- Vendor, Venus Fest; Toronto, ON—December 2018
- London Feminist Fair, London, On—June 2018 & 2019
- OPIRG Fundraising event of queer* celebration—Brock University, April 2019
- CanZine 2020, Broken Pencil Publishing—Online Exhibition, May 2020

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

FAR TOO FAT: FINDING OURSELVES

FTF (Micro-press), Issue No. 1, p. 15, Spring 2021. Writing and illustration featured as Joey Dean.

WHAT WE DO: THE INVISIBLE GIG ECONOMY

Selkie Publishing (Complier), Issue No. 1, p. 2-5, Winter 2020. Writing and illustration featured as Joey Dean.

CAN ZINES SAVE DEMOCRACY?

Broken Pencil (Publisher), Issue No. 89, p. 39, Fall 2020. Illustration featured as Joey Dean.

<https://brokenpencil.myshopify.com/products/issue-88-diy-countersurveillance>

CSC ALT. MAG - CRYPTIC

Cold Strawberries Collective (Micro-press), Issue No. 2, front cover, layout design & visual direction, Fall 2020. Illustration featured as Joey Dean.

<https://www.coldstrawberriescollective.com/blog/cryptic>

SUPER / NATURAL ZINE

Perennial Press (Micro-press), Issue No. 1, p. 2 and back cover, Spring 2020. Illustration featured as Joey Dean.

<https://www.perennial-press.com/buy-super-natural>

JUSTE MILLEU ISSUE #10 - MONOCHROME

Juste Millieu (Compiler), Issue No. 10, p. 2 and back cover, Spring 2020. Illustration featured as Joey Dean.

<http://www.literaryhomegirl.com/juste-milieu-literary-zine/>

THE PAPER STREET JOURNAL, ISSUE #4

The Paper Street Journal (Compiler), Issue 4, p. 9, Spring 2017. Illustrations published under Mick Rose.

https://issuu.com/thepaperstreetjournal/docs/psj_issue_4

JUSTE MILLEU ISSUE #3

Juste Millieu (Compiler), Issue No. 3, p. 18, Winter 2017. Illustration featured as Mick Rose.

<http://www.literaryhomegirl.com/juste-milieu-literary-zine/>

"STUCK!" BY NANO PUBLISHING, TORONTO, ON

Nano Publishing (Complier), Winter 2108. Writing featured as Mick Rose.

GOOGIE GIRLS, PUBLISHED BY SPACE & TIME COLLECTIVE

Fake Geek Girls Like Us Pub. (Compiler), Googie Girls Sci-fi Zine, p. 17, Spring 2018. Graphic design featured as Mick Rose.

<https://spaceandtimecollective.tumblr.com>

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BEARQUEFT COMIX ISSUE #2

Bearqueft Comix (Compiler), Vol. 2, p. 26, Summer 2017. Illustrations published under Mick Rose.



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