

RiverArtsFest, Inc.

Art Education Conversations: Amy-Beth Rice and Quantavious Worship (Toonky Berry)

Artist: Quantavious Worship, also known as Toonky Berry

A Mississippi native and Memphis-based artist, Toonky is a graduate of Memphis College of Art with a major in illustration. There he developed the style he calls “Toonkified,” which is a combination of Surrealism, caricatures, and graffiti. Those styles combined together creating his full, exaggerated, and multi-featured characters. Features being a big part of his focus, his Toonkified illustrations, portraits, murals, logos, and multimedia work can be found throughout the Mid-South. Well-versed in fine art, graphic design, and public art, Toonky blends tradition and innovation, cultivating expertise in the specialty of graphic portraits.

.More Information about Toonky

- <https://www.localmemphis.com/article/life/holidays/black-history-month/memphis-black-history-music-artwork-fedex-forum-plaza/522-c3904561-354c-41db-945c-31a6f15d6c77>
- <https://uacmem.org/programs-blog/usps>
- <https://www.actionnews5.com/story/38410285/toonky-art-making-its-mark-on-memphis/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mxm2bbfIavM>
- https://www.instagram.com/toonky_berry/?hl=en

Art Educator: Amy-Beth Rice

Originally from Springfield, Missouri, Amy-Beth Rice received her Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Arts degrees in Teaching from Memphis College of Art and is currently based in Memphis. With a focus on color, whimsy, and movement, her work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions in galleries around the Midwest and the Midsouth. Amy-Beth has held community mural workshops and given talks in libraries, independent living facilities, colleges, and churches. Amy-Beth returned to the classroom in 2018 and currently seeks to balance her passion for art education, a personal art practice, and fulfilling art commissions and hosting classes while trying to maintain the regular rhythms of life.

For more information on Amy-Beth:

- <https://www.instagram.com/amybethrice/>
- <https://www.brooksmuseum.org/post/amy-beth-rice-adventures-in-art-education-from-the-eyes-of-an-intern>
- society6.com/amybethrice
- <https://uacmem.org/projects/learninggardenmurals>

In this conversation, artist Toonky Berry and art educator Amy-Beth Rice, discuss some of the ways in which art can create an outlet for young people to recognize their own value and strengthen their identity while experiencing challenges such as bullying or feeling different. They also tackle the question of what responsibility an artist has to create artwork that comments on social issues affecting their community.

Key Understandings:

- Don't allow bullying or “feeling like you don't fit in” to cause you to devalue parts of yourself. What the world around us values changes constantly and should not be used as a barometer for our personal value.
- Art can be used as a way of cultivating and recognizing one's own identity and value as an individual.
- There are viable careers in the arts.

- When you include your personal experiences in your work, it can help other people feel seen and recognize their worth.

Key Terms and People

Surrealism: A mix between something familiar and something bizarre or fantasy.

Abstraction: art that does not attempt to represent external reality, but seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, forms, colors, and textures.

Automatism: is a term from physiology associated with unconsciously controlled body movements such as breathing.

Line Variation: the use of a variety of line including width, length, texture, thickness, etc. to add interest to a drawing or painting.

Freestyle: Freestyle is a style of improvisation, drawing without a theme in mind.

Street Artist: A street artist is a person who makes art in public places for everyone

Graffiti Artist: Artists who create unsanctioned work that is understood primarily by the graffiti-creating communities.

Justin Bua: artist, author, speaker and entrepreneur.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin_Bua

Questions to Consider

- What elements of your life are expressed through art-making?
- Share a time you felt bullied or just didn't feel like you fit in.
- Identify three characteristics about yourself and explain how they can be positive attributes, regardless of what is currently popular.

Related Links

- **Street Art Resources and Activities** <https://theartofeducation.edu/flex/collections/contemporary-street-art/>
- **Surrealist Automatism Activity** <http://www.darrencfisher.com/2019/12/16/fsnau19-presentation-automatic-drawing/>
- **How to Talk About Bullying** <https://www.stopbullying.gov/resources/how-to-talk-about-bullying>
- **Artwork and Identity** <https://www.theartstory.org/movement/identity-art/>

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