

Brianna Ballinghoff
Artist Statement

My work comes from an atmosphere of grit. I am heavily influenced by rock music, lowbrow art movements, and history. It is essential to make my work with traditional materials in order to represent this. The most successful moments of my art making process have come from the unpredictability of physical materials. The work can be loose and tactile, but still controlled and clean. Art and design are intertwined, simplifying a form and reinterpreting it. I have found that colored pencil, ink, watercolor and gouache are mediums I can control easily, but also be experimental and bold.

I tend to focus on the human body and its capacity to express emotion or take on an unusual form. The body has the ability to interact with the past and can carry its story along with it. Narrative has always guided me in my artistic process. In most cases I will choose a character and create a moment of their life. It will usually derive from a place of comfort or high energy. I use their characterization to portray history, as I am interested in researching the past and representing it in my work. There are always two stories in a piece—the character's and the era in which they exist.