

DREW BACON

PROFILE:



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HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS

We aren't sure what you were doing in June or July, but we know what you should have been doing: checking out native Houstonian **DREW BACON'S** (www.drewbaconartwork.com) first solo show, *Stutter and Spill*, at the Hiram Butler Gallery.

After studying in Brooklyn at the Pratt Institute, Drew returned to Houston a few years ago. Having been raised in the Northeast, I was curious about Drew's impressions of Brooklyn and what it was like to be back home. Going from a horizontal city with lots of breathing room to a vertical city where space itself is a commodity, Drew found himself mellowing out his southern "genteel" in the occasional social code of silence in New York: ride a packed elevator in Houston and you'll know everyone's favorite football team by the time you get off; ride one in Brooklyn? Just push the button and go!

Drew stumbled upon a 1930's Webster's dictionary during his sophomore year at Pratt and found the written word the perfect canvas to explore on. He honed in on incorporating the way the text is designed to move the viewers' eyes from left to right into his sketch work and saw a romantic abstract beauty inside the dictionary, not just words printed on paper. *Stutter and Spill* took Drew's "Dictionary Pages" (www.drewbaconartwork.com/about-the-dictionary-pages/) to the next level, working on an older and bigger Webster's from 1912. Looking at these pieces, and in particular for me the animations, you can almost feel the crackle of paper and ink under your fingers watching his pages come to life. If you have the chance to watch one of his first animations, *The Creation Myth*, do it. Drew's love of literature plans to play a part in his future projects as well, moving to newspaper as a canvas.

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I was curious, while on the topic of the written word during my call with Drew (God bless him that he did this interview the morning after a good friend's bachelor party), if H.G. Wells showed up on his doorstep in a time machine and said show me Houston, where he would take him. His answer? A skate park, reflecting on Drew's love of skateboarding, and maybe a burger at Champ Burger (his favorite). Houston's art scene is lucky that Drew is home to stay.