

BFA Senior Thesis Conversations featuring Ethan Schoefer

Questions by Daniela Segovia

Ethan Schoefer is an undergraduate student working towards his BFA in Individualized Studies at California College of the Arts.

See more of his work on Instagram [@studio.e10](https://www.instagram.com/studio.e10).

What is your thesis investigating?

My thesis is a collection of work exploring fantastical scenes and landscapes in an imaginary world. These scenes are dream-like in nature and they are very materially-driven. I love drawing and I love getting hands-on in the studio. These images can end up getting pretty bizarre and immersive simply because there's so many ways to combine media and materials. I'm working towards creating a cohesive visual experience. I want people to feel immersed in my work as they navigate through my illustrations. It's really fun combining sci-fi and fantasy along with a lot of my historical influences!



Still from *Overture*.



Sunday, 2019.

How has your project evolved?

My thesis was originally going to be a lot different than the project I just described. I had an idea for an interactive, immersive, and narrative installation telling a story in a 3D space, influenced by the actions of the viewers. Of course, there was no way for me to do that because of the pandemic. It's something I want to explore in the future, maybe as a grad school project. Nevertheless, I'm happy with the way my thesis is turning out now!

What is your major influence at the moment?

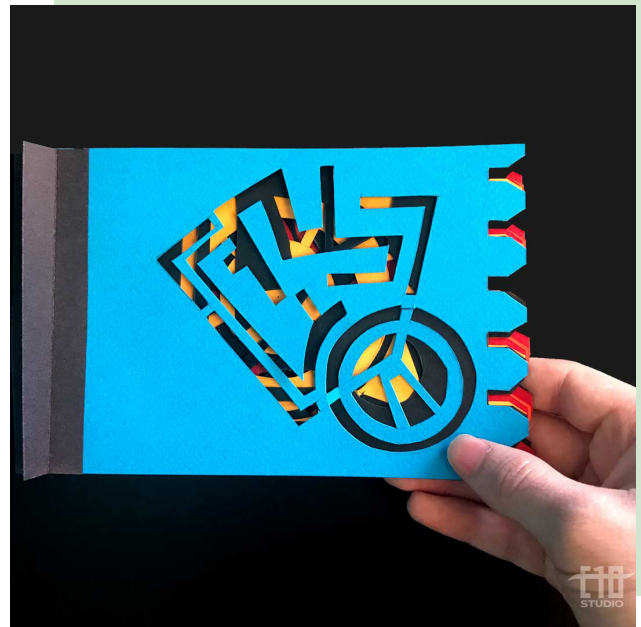
I'm currently pushing myself to make more mixed-media work. Klaus Voormann is someone I look to for inspiration on how to achieve this goal. On top of being a great musician, he's also such a great visual artist. He's designed a few album covers over the decades, most famously for the Beatles' album *Revolver*. I like combining ink and paints with collage and photographs like on that album cover. The way Klaus Voormann does it seems so effortless and natural, so I'd like to be able to reach his level some day.

What's next for you?

Making things bigger and better. Literally. I've gotten so many comments over the years on how great it would be to scale up my work. It's something I've given a lot of thought to, and I'm slowly getting there. I have to consider where I'd store the work, but I'm in a better position storage-wise than I was even a month ago. I'm also working on honing my skills when it comes to drawing and choosing colors. Be on the lookout for more amazing things to come!



One Big Leap



Portals