

WITHIN TENSIONS

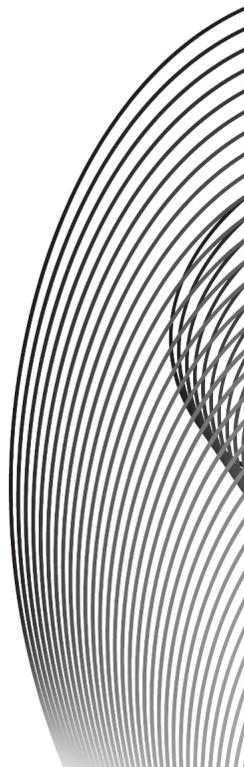


vol.2

HUMOUR



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February 2020
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We at Withintensions want to acknowledge that our work takes place on the unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), and Səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) peoples. We want to recognize that these lands belong to the Indigenous peoples who have lived here far before the arrival of settlers. We also want to push beyond land acknowledgements to further encourage acts of reconciliation. Recognition is great but it is nowhere near where we need to be. Reconciliation is comprehensive and takes more than an acknowledgment for occupying land. We support the Wet'suwet'en peoples right to their lands and their right to protest.



Francisco Berlanga, *Executive Decision* (2020)

It's ok to Laugh!

Francisco Berlanga

I mean, why not laugh? What do you have to lose?

Why on earth do you not feel the urge to look at Cindy Sherman's perfectly round exposed breast¹ and laugh in the middle of the Vancouver Art Gallery²?

The social pressures of the white space force me to merely look at art in a serious way when all I want to do is point at an ugly painting with my friends and scream, "that's you!"

I live for the few moments of humour the gallery space allows. Looking at a sculpture of Ai Wei Wei face down on the floor³ and whispering "me" as my friends hold back laughter, or looking at footage of bananas flying through the air⁴ and resisting the need to make a little penis joke or a big one.

Art spaces have an inherent comedy to them. The idea of a space maintained perfectly just to make it messy is funny. The idea that the gallery can become a wilderness

1 Cindy Sherman, *Untitled* #216, 1989

2 <http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/exhibitions/cindy-sherman>

3 He Xiangyu, *The Death of Marat*, 2011

4 Owen Kydd, *Diptych*, 2015

because you released a handful of wild animals⁵ into it is laughable, because it is not wilderness. It is a gallery. You did not arrive at that space following signs that said “wilderness this way”, the pristine signage said, “Contemporary Art Gallery”. If you arrived at your destination and thought, “Wow! This building is a great place for the wilderness” then I think the issue is with you.

Or the idea that Andy Warhol’s soup can series⁶ is high art today. He literally said, “I like soup”, then tried to raise the image of soup to the same importance as the images he made of celebrities. Did this act raise the standards of soup to icon? Or did it diminish celebrities to shelf stock? Either way, we all fell for it. We ate it up, so to speak. Even today his favourite lunch lives on as an icon of art printed on Uniqlo shirts, Vans limited-edition shoes, and tattooed on art students’ calves.

The pièce de résistance in the category of “Art is a joke” is the \$1,400,000 self shredding painting/brilliant critique against capitalism⁷ by Banksy. The fact that the internet

5 Joseph Beuys, *I Like America and America Likes Me*, 1974

6 Andy Warhol, *Campbell's Soup Cans*, 1962

7 Banksy, *Love Is [In The Bin]*, 2006

bought into the idea that by shredding his work he extended a giant middle finger to the rich people who bought it is really a testament to the gullibility of the masses. Banksy is a street artist. His canvases are usually dirty alleys and brick walls, and even these pieces get sold. He literally has made art on rubble and mildew, so excuse me if I'm not filled with anti-capitalist zeal when a once street artist shreds a canvas replica of his own work at Sotheby's auction house in London as approximately 45 white women clutch their pearls.

This is why art spaces need humour. I don't need to justify a laugh the same way I need to justify a clever critique. My laughter often holds more authority than me. Laughter is simple, an impulse rather than a thought. It is a truthful reaction because you will never convince me that a group of performance artists slapping each other with dead chickens in their underwear⁸ isn't funny. When I think back to my encounters with art, the humour is what I always remember; intimate moments of comedy in art spaces are cherished and often undervalued, but for me these moments will always bring me(at) joy!

⁸ Carolee Schneeman, *Meat Joy*, 1964



Well. looks like nature is quaking

Victoria Mulja, *Quakin'* (2020)

sometimes

everyday slang

can be taken

literally



The chicken feet are a symbolic representation of a portion of a culture which the artist-- who has now been living in a western country for over half his life-- is trying to conserve through traditional pickling methods. In his attempt to preserve the feet, he feels compelled to paint the toe nails. It raises the question of how much one can preserve a traditional culture in a western country before it becomes completely clouded by the predominant culture of that region.



Dwayne Tonta, *Untitled* (2019)

Memoirs of a Clutz: Ridiculous Real Life Recounts

Opal Mclean

I have a long history of falling. I can not help but share the stories because most of the time I get shocked laughter in response. A kind of laughter that comes from near discomfort but also from ashamed enjoyment. Their disconnect to the reality of the story becomes the connection to humour.

In recounting the stories, and then fragmenting them, I see the parts that are funny. I see the story in the same way my friends do. I gain access to the comedy of the story by distancing myself from the actual event.

I did not learn how to ride a bike until I was 11. I still have the scar.

Sledding was banned at my school. I will admit I came out of this unscathed but a few kids had to cushion my fall because I was not fast enough.

We did not know how to properly use the slide. One day, a kid slid feet first right into my back. I flew forward only to kiss the bed of rocks that broke my fall.

I was never very good at tetherball. In my excitement, I would enter the ring only to be met by the ball at the end of the rope that swept me right off my feet.

My cousin and I made a game of sliding down the stairs in our sleeping bags. That was how I got my first nosebleed.

My friend lived on a farm. There was no way for me to regain my footing so I found myself on the ground hysterically laughing as we were all tossed around the car like yesterday's groceries.

My house growing up was on a giant hill lined with blackberry bushes. Almost a victory until I had to walk back up the hill anyways. That was how I got my first sling and how I avoided doing any schoolwork.

I grew up doing stage falls in theatre. I didn't have the heart to tell her I had years of practice before I joined theatre.

It was Christmas time and my friends invited me to see the lights at Lafarge Lake. I forgot my skating legs at home. This story is for them.

I went to the Pride parade every year since I was 14. I was stuck on the ground as my foot doubled in size. Yep, that is right. I was one of the parade floats. You could say I left my mark but the best part is I spent 15 minutes total at the parade and I did not even get to finish my wine.

The Vancouver Architectural Gnostic Institute of Necessary Achievements (V.A.G.I.N.A)

Aidan Branch and Rachel
Warwick

The Warwick-Branch Method of
Modeling Subconscious Thought
Through Somnambulistic Responses
to Photographs of The Multi-Million
Dollar Real Estate Interiors of
Canada



He doesn't mind eating her out even
if she's bleeding.

Her face doesn't have symmetry but
her nether regions sure do.



Q: Why did Manet never get a haircut?



Cuckoo for cock (and his wife watches through the rear window).

He doesn't fuck me anymore...



A: He was refused at the Salon.

... But the pool boy sure does.

Once I climax, it only goes downhill
from here.



You could wrap a pearl necklace
around her.

She could use a few more cobwebs
but she sure is barren.





This is why douching is always important.

Why are white people so obsessed with fucking blue people?



This is all just a euphemism for circle jerking in Grandma's house... but she's not watching after 10:45pm...

Archiving Humour

Natalie Chan

A retrospective collection of side-splitting and rib-tickling moments captured via Snapchat, commemorated by a transcription of visuals.

Collecting short instants of time.

Preserving seconds-worth of obscure comedy.

Making incredibly context-specific jokes timeless.

January 18th, 2018, 3:26PM

A six-second video opens immediately with a voice in the background exclaiming, “layers, borders!” as the shot contains a half frame of a tired looking woman resting on her forearm. The shot quickly pans upwards to include a black-haired Caucasian male looking questioningly off to the left, indicating his focus on the person speaking; the shot follows along his line of sight to reveal a pink-shirted, yellow beanie adorned man. The camera shakily adjusts to better frame the speaker, who laughs to himself and trails off, “that’s not the worst...”, ending his sentence with a guttural groan.

March 4th, 2018, 10:42PM

An eleven-second video captures a young man sitting at the piano bench, hesitantly playing octaves and chords as he quietly mutters the tone of each note as he plays, “du..du..du...you go up?”. The camera zooms in a little closer with each note played, and as the last chord lands on the wrong note, the shot immediately pans to the pianist’s face full of horror and distress.

April 10th, 2018, 12:39PM

A five-second video zooms into the hands of an unestablished figure. Their left hand holds an empty, plastic shot cup and a wedge of lime. The lime is transferred to the right hand, and the camera tracks the movement of the hand, zooming in as he brings the wedge into his mouth. The brown-haired male smizes directly into the camera as he sucks on the lime. A slight pan to the left reveals a curly-haired male looking over his shoulder with a mixture of concern and amusement. The caption of the video reads, “10+ shots in and he’s ready for his final later”.

May 16th, 2018, 2:42PM

A thirteen-second video depicts a slim, pale hand giving gentle scratches along the neck and behind the floppy ears of a small, docile, black terrier-mutt with white mitten paws. The top-down perspective shows the worn-out painted wooden flooring, an echoing resonance of a female voice in the background suggests it is set in a large room. Though faint, her voice rings clear. She sings in a minor key, an impromptu retelling of a tragedy through a crooning tune:
“I told you...not to fart on me...and then you did it anyways...”

February 2nd, 2019, 12:51PM

A five-second video takes place in the backseat of a moving cab, the shot focusing on the road and scenery going by. A female voice in the car nervously laughs, “you

guys are gonna have to call the cab from now on, FYI.” The camera hastily pans down right before another taxi zooms by on the road, a chorus of nervous laughter filling the car, “ohh!”

September 9th, 2019, 11:22AM

A seven-second video takes place in the backseat of a moving vehicle, all is quiet except the sound of driving and a whimpering Asian female in the backseat, who flops forward to lean on the back of the driver seat and reaches her hand over to repeatedly tap on the shoulder of the male in the passenger side. She sniffles while smiling through her pain. She pleads in an increasingly high-pitched voice, “please play some tunes, it’s too silent in here...please...”

October 19th, 2019, 11:24PM

A forty-second video unfolds at the table of a large social gathering. With disruptive music and conversations in the background, the shot’s focus is on a male seated at the head of the table. His cheeks are flushed and around his neck is a paper-towel bib. Behind him are laughing party-goers watching intently on the stairs at the back. He shakily takes a butter knife and aims it towards a two-tiered cake adorned with birthday decorations in front of him. Before he can slice into the cake, an exasperated female on his left attempts to hastily take his knife out of concern of his incompetence. He wrestles the knife back and returns his focus to the cake, removing the birthday decorations. His intense concentration is conveyed through his furrowed brows while the crowd watches in

amusement behind him. Another male comes into frame from his right, his neck adorned by individual shot bottles.

The bibbed male sticks out his tongue in concentration while he sticks out his hand holding onto the butter knife once again. His companion reaches out to steady his hand, and they gently slice the cake together.

December 10th, 2019, 1:06AM

An eight-second video focuses on the faces of two young women reclined onto a couch. While Lady Gaga's Just Dance plays in the background, the camera zooms into the face of the female on the left as she grimaces and emits a low quavering wail as the camera zooms in on her face, quickly zooming out to zoom in again onto the female on the right who joins in with a harmonizing wail.

The camera pans even further right to reveal another female on the end of the couch. As the shot zooms in on her face, the trio of voices give a final wail blaring in unison.

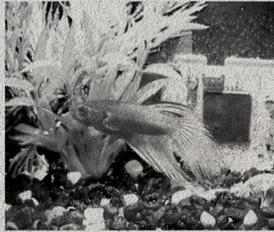
February 28th, 2020, 11:08PM

A seven-second video begins with a half-frame of a female in the foreground, and another female in the top right corner over her shoulder. Hey There Delilah by Plain White T's plays on the desktop in front of the woman at the back as she quietly sings along to it while maintaining eye contact with the camera. As the shot shakily zooms in on her face, she switches up the lyrics, "but girl tonight you look so shITTY"; the previously shown female squeals in response out of surprise and amusement.

Obituary

Fish, Betta
aged 3 months

Betta fish age 3 months died last month from lead, mercury, beryllium and cadmium poisoning --chemicals commonly found in old tube TVs--.



Betta lived a short life travelling mostly from the pet store to the TV he, shortly, called home. They are mourned by their owner Kitty Walker, their closest friend -- the toy fish in the tank next to theirs--, and by their approximately 299 siblings. Their hobbies included short swims around the tanks and people watching.

Heaven gained a little swimmer.

Francisco Berlanga, *Obituary*, (2020)

*No fish actually died in this exhibition. This obituary is just a comedic image for critique purposes.

This Drain Leads to Fish Habitats: A Critical Review of “Fiiiish”

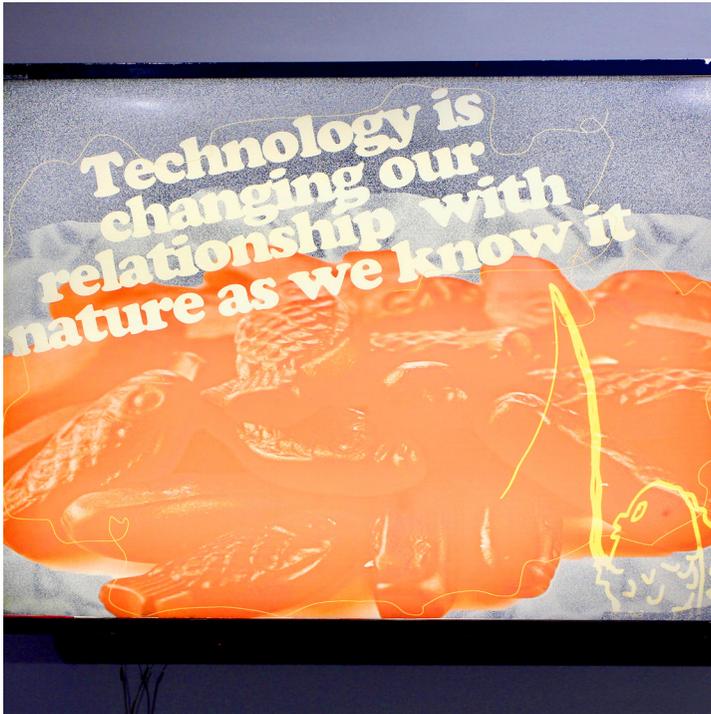
Francisco Berlanga

Kitty Walker’s first solo show Fiiiish ran from February 6-27, 2020 at Slice of Life in Vancouver, B.C. Walker’s show consisted of several modified vintage TVs. Some were converted to fish tanks, others were screen printed on, and one played a looped video of fish swimming. As well, the show had several large printed digital collages that combine images of fish, fishing equipment, text, and digital waste.

The main message of Walkers show was the idea that technology has changed our relationship with nature. This point is truly proved in the way in which Walker treated the live fish in the exhibition. The one live fish was put in a TV fish tank along with some plastic plants and an old motherboard looking piece of tech junk. Prolonged exposure to the chemicals present in the pieces of technology Walker littered throughout the tanks would likely kill the fish. Despite this, the audience seemed unaware of the fish’s impending doom as they watched it swim in an obviously distressed pattern.

The reality is that the audience's relationship to the fish changed instantly when they entered the room. Their willingness to look past its well being stemmed directly from the presence of technology in the work which offered them a distraction. Walker's show engages with a long history of environmental art and brings up the question of whether environmental art needs to be heavily researched? Walker presents us with a premise and then provides no evidence to support it. But does that invalidate her statement? We see the evidence in the way the audience interacted with it and in how the work was assembled. Obviously, a broken TV is not an ideal home for a fish but maybe forcing it into that home allowed Walker to prove her point.

Upon further discussion with the artist, she informed me that the tech waste in the tanks were covered in protective resin to prevent chemical runoff. However, this was not known by the audience, including myself. There were no signs or disclaimers telling us the fish were safe. For all we knew, the fish were in danger, but we were willing to look past that and merely observe the fish as another aesthetic choice within the show.



Kitty Walker, *Lightbox*, (2020)



This Is, Jesse Del Fierro (2019)



Humour, from old North French humour “liquid, dampness;” related to umere “be wet, moist;” and to humid or uvescere “become wet;” again related to our favourite word “moist.”

Moist.

Moist Humour.

See also: Dry Humour.

How would you rate this humour on a scale from drought to flooded? Be honest. Come on.

Humour me.

I would not consider myself ‘humorous,’ in either the sense funny or arousing. Nonetheless I often find myself the designated comic relief.

I find this very uncomfortable, considering that humour is relative; It is the breaking of tensions that were created by a set of expectations I very obviously failed to pay attention to. Failing to meet expectations, related to the unexpected. In a lot of ways, I do consider myself an easy look at failure.

Because of all of the above, I am constantly uncomfortable. And nothing ‘comfortable’ has ever been considered humorous.

How would you rate this humour?

A: Express-ionism

THUMBS

Cristian Nicolas Celis Fernandez

The Creation and Development of Thumbs: A Brief Essay About the History of the Human Thumb and its Consequences.

A thumb (derived from the Greek: *Avtixeiπ*, meaning: other hand), or also known as the fat finger, is a device that gives human hands the ability to grab and twist. It is typically the most efficient finger. Physicians say that thumbs are the master finger of the hand. Thumbs have been evolving since the creation of the Human in 8,000,000,000,000,000 B.C. It is connected to the human body through nerves, veins, bones, and muscles.

Doctor Stephen Einstein was the first graduate student from the University of Quetzalcoatl in La Gran, Colombia to create the perfect thumb. Many students and scientists tried to develop a finger that made humans useful. Stephen Einstein discovered that using two bones would be cheaper and more efficient to experiment with. Thus, the creation of the perfect thumb began. This way, bosses and war leaders would be able to cut the thumbs of their enemies and render them unable to fight. It would help slaves to pick cotton in fields while their owners use their index finger to give orders so their thumbs would not be wasted. Thumbs enabled humans to tightly hold onto swords, knives, whips, and rocks. Now, thanks to technology, humans are able to hold an AK-47, push remote control bombs, and commit massive massacres against humanity.

It is reported that, amongst certain Bearded kings, it was traditional to join their left hands together and break their thumbs when making a firm obligation. Through this strained action, the end result brings forth the force of blood; the parties then cut their thumbs with a sharp instrument and partake in mutual consumption of the thumbs. This represents the Crusaders and the Christian belief of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us, but in a brutal way so they would look cool.

The development of the thumb was slow and time consuming. The first experiments were on chimpanzees, monkeys, lemurs, and a few other vertebrates such as koalas. After killing millions of animals, Einstein finally discovered the perfect thumb. Through many experiments, such as the second World War and the creation of the atomic bomb, the thumb was considered the best invention in human history. However, many critics and tree huggers were not happy as they saw the thumb as a destructive instrument. They considered it offensive to other animals because of their lack of thumbs because they are unable to obtain what humans have. For this reason, most of them opted to cut their thumbs after World War III as an act of protest. After a few weeks of cutting their thumbs, the tree huggers figured out that they would eventually run out of tree huggers with viable thumbs to cut. As a result, many of them decided to contact rednecks because Republicans just wanted money. So, it was an intelligent move on the tree huggers part.

Eventually, the thumb experiment began to fail because people around the world started using thumbs to help humanity instead of destroying it. Many terrorist groups such as “H.U.M.A.N Rights” and “Let’s Not Kill Each Other” started to terrorize the United States and Russia. Most of them would provide bread and water to feed future fighters. The tactics led to the creation of accessible services and humanitarian help to the most vulnerable. For this reason, the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States and the Special Forces of Russia started to work together to stop these international terrorist groups. The creation of viruses and massive holocausts helped humans evolve. The fight was long, and very expensive, but they succeeded to destroy these groups. The United States and Russia began another world war, which was known as “We Just Want More Petroleum”; this war took 20 years of fighting until the United States won by implementing the hydrogen bomb in Moscow and Venezuela. This destroyed most of the petroleum and infrastructure in those cities.

Thanks to the experiments and sacrifices of soldiers. People around the world are now safe and can continue buying. Thanks to the United States for their fight against terrorism. Thanks to thumbs for making humans useful. Thanks to Stephen Einstein for his great invention. Shame to all the people who are against the principles of the United States. Blame on you, reader. Blame on you, author. Blame on all of our short existences.



Cristian Nicolas Celis Fernandez, *Thanks for reading, God bless you* (2019)





Kaila Bhullar, *Smoking Kills* (2019)

Humour, to me, is a way of making sense of the world. It reflects our perception and the strangeness of existing as humans. We laugh about things that we used to cry about, and we cry when we laugh too hard. Sometimes we feel too much, and at other times we can not feel anything. Nobody ever really knows what is going on since everything is falsifiable in nature. Nothing makes sense and there is an irony to it. Everything is funny in a way.

Top Ten Ways to be a Successful Artist

Opal Mclean

Have you ever wondered how art icons invent themselves? Here are a few ways to pave a road to success through destructive behaviour and ego issues.

1 Change your sleep schedule

Make sure you stay up all hours of the night working (or at least trying to work) in an attempt to be as productive as possible. This will ensure you're so exhausted you can't even think long enough to accomplish anything.

2 Be your own critic

While you're working on your latest project, take the time to truly look at your work and ask yourself the hard questions like "Am I pushing myself hard enough?" or "Is this something I'm really interested in?" to the point where you have a bunch of half finished ideas instead of complete projects.

3

Maintain a healthy diet

In order to remain as focused as possible, choose healthy meals throughout the day like twelve cups of coffee and a pack of ramen noodles. This will be sure to have you buzzing by 4am wondering why you ever decided to start that project at midnight.

Reach out to those around you

While you're working, turn to your friend/colleague/partner and strike up a conversation about god knows what! By the time you're done, you'll have wasted at least two hours talking about the meaning of using fishing wire instead of yarn to suspend your work instead of finishing that project you said you'd have done by that evening.

4

5

Take risks

Don't be afraid to make changes to your project even when you feel like it's finished. In fact, obsess over the tiny little details until your impulses tell you to paint it all black! It'll look good right? You definitely won't ruin your project. It'll improve your work in the end, not completely destroy it.

6

Keep everything

Make sure to keep every scrap piece of paper, every paint chip, and every film strip. This will ensure that your space is so crowded that, not only are you constantly distracted, but you also have no space to work. You'll spend more time cleaning than actually working which makes you feel more productive!

Research

Before you start your work, spend an ungodly amount of time researching anything that has to do with your idea. You want to screen print? Research different techniques of screen printing, what ink dries the fastest, and which screens are the tightest until you forget what you were going to make completely. Instead of a new work, you'll have extensive knowledge of a bunch of different things that barely add up to a new mediocre skill.

7

8

Brainstorm

Grab yourself a piece of paper and write whatever comes to your mind! Not only will you completely confuse yourself, but you'll have a project that has so many ideas that you can't explain it to anyone. Better yet, you'll have a piece of paper that you can add to the pile that's already blocking you from your work.

A large, light grey number '9' is positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping the text area.

Have confidence

Don't take other people's criticisms because you know your work is good. Keep your mind focused on how you can improve so you're making something that is going absolutely nowhere. Keep your mind set on your goals no matter how distant or unattainable they may be. Don't grow at all and just make the same thing over and over again.

A large, light grey number '10' is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the text area.

Invest in yourself

Spend that last 10\$ in your bank account on a fancy embellished piece of paper. You'll definitely end up using it in one of your future projects. It definitely won't sit forgotten on your desk for six months until you forget why you even bought it. You definitely won't end up throwing it out in the end when you're cleaning to avoid doing work.

Aloha Wind

Air Thin Lamb Poc

Use mel could;
sous punk rack hearse.
Inns hick nissan din elf,
tis coal eighty.

Ewe hardy we gus slink;
wok aim aisle enema chews.
Is bunch pops queer pans
Hoe min proof mint.

Lee hone art dough Dove Inch he,
yule bizarre he.
Law duff there Inks,
were that sway ten cold.

Door her text pole horror,
ran dumb max suck highness,
Shy niece sheik anne's hal ad.

Sentences inspired by a game called "Mad Gab" where similar sounding words or common phrases are used to make a guessing game..

[On A Whim]

[Aaron Lampitoc]

[You smell good;
soup and crackers.
In sickness and in health,
disco lady.]

[You are the weakest link;
walk a mile in my shoes.
Spongebob Squarepants
home improvement.]

[Leonardo da Vinci,
you'll be sorry.
Lord of the Rings,
worth its weight in gold.]

[Dora the Explorer,
random acts of kindness,
chinese chicken salad.]

Which pretentious white male artist are you?

Opal Mclean

1. What's your favourite colour?

- A. Black
- B. I don't care
- C. White
- D. All of them

2. It's Friday night. Where are you and your friends?

- A. The trendiest nightclub
- B. In a warehouse
- C. Doing drag
- D. At a show

3. What's your ideal first date?

- A. A photoshoot
- B. Staying in and ordering takeout
- C. Riding a tandem bike
- D. Dinner and a movie

4. What's your favourite flavour of ice cream?

- A. Rum raisin
- B. Vanilla
- C. Bubblegum
- D. Sherbet

5. How do you like your coffee?

- A. With a shot of whiskey
- B. Black
- C. Iced with cream and sugar
- D. Extra hot with honey

6. What do you like for breakfast?

- A. A cigarette
- B. Instant oatmeal
- C. French toast
- D. An omelette but square

7. Where would you go on a trip?

- A. Coachella
- B. Nowhere, I'm staying home
- C. New York City
- D. Italy

8. Your friends throw you a surprise party. What do you do?

- A. Bust out my camera!
- B. Don't even show up
- C. Appreciate the bathroom fixtures
- D. Strike up conversation

9. What word best describes you?

- A. Edgy
- B. Aloof
- C. Outgoing
- D. Intelligent

10. If you had a pet, you would have a...

- A. Plant
- B. Snake
- C. Dog
- D. Chameleon

Q: How do you know the artist is present?

If you answered mostly A, you are.....

Andy Warhol

Do you like long drug trips through the nightclubs of New York City? We know you do. Just like Warhol, you enjoy the finer things in life like a can of soup on a cold winter day or a Polaroid found abandoned in the street. You're unapproachable but, to those who know you, you are the life of the party. You are an acquired taste like Jack Daniels and cigarettes.

If you answered mostly B, you are.....

Jackson Pollock

Your friends know better than to go looking for you because you'll most likely ignore them for another can of paint. That's okay though because your hard work and determination is how you get what you want out of life. You're not afraid to think outside the box to find new ways of doing things. You walk your own beaten path and, if other people are lucky, they'll be able to walk the path of success with you. Let's face it, you definitely know how to leave your mark.

If you answered mostly C, you are.....

Marcel Duchamp

Just like your art, you have a sense of humour. You have a way of taking things and making them your own. This makes you incredibly versatile and appealing to a wide range of friends. That's a good thing because you thrive in a group setting where you can share your ideas with confidence. You aren't afraid to speak your truth because, at the end of the day, you know who you are and no one can change that.

If you answered mostly D, you are.....

Mark Rothko

You find the deepest meaning from small things like the perfect pigment in a painting. Your wisdom is unthinkable and you spend your spare time diving into whatever sparks your interest. You're shy but that's only because you're so deep in analytic thought. Your loved ones admire your sensitivity because it is larger than life just like your art.

A: She's sitting right in front of you



Annie Chan, *THE BONE IS YOURS* (2019)

A dog at breakfast, that's pretty much it. He's got his coffee and his Bone Flakes. His motivational poster gets him pumped for the day and last night's tennis ball shenanigans are evident in the background.

MAD LIBS

Day at the Gallery

Walking through the doors of the _____ to see the newest exhibit
(name of art gallery)

on _____, I am distracted by a large sculpture of a _____!
(noun) (noun)

The artwork was surrounded by a _____ of people making it
(noun)
tough to get a clear look. I _____ my way through to the front
(verb)

where I realize it is a new work by _____.
(famous person)

The _____ sculpture was made out of _____ and stood
(adjective) (noun)

8 feet high. It is the type of work you'd expect to see in the atrium of
a _____ Art Gallery. I hear that the collection paid _____
(adjective) (amount of money)

for it! Crazy! However, all the excitement around the piece made my
interest _____. Heading to the floor with _____, I'm on the
(adjective) (modern art movement)

hunt to find a original _____, but all I find is a urinal...
(name of artist)

Day at the Gallery, Kitty Walker (2020)

We would like to present a collection of memes made by the team behind Withintensions. All niche, art related, self deprecating humour with a little bit of sass. To avoid copyright infringement, we altered the image to create a cohesive style unique to our zine.





A: He made a good point





Meet the Team



Francisco
Berlanga

Francisco Berlanga is a contemporary artist who studied at Simon Fraser University. He obtained his BFA in Visual Arts with a minor in Interactive Arts and Technology. His practice is based on questioning identity, particularly his connection with his own Mexican culture and how one can inhabit a culture while being partially absent from it. He engages in discourses with his own identity through the creation of traditional Mexican “manualidades” or crafts, his work makes connections between traditional Mexican aesthetics and contemporary visual language. His practice engages with concepts of inaccessibility and the role memory and language can play when someone is distanced from their own culture. He attempts to bridge the gaps between his personal and cultural identities by forcing connections between them and by trying to understand the limitations that these identities impose upon each other



Annie
Chan

Annie Chan was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to Toronto as a child. She returned to China for her teenage years, before moving to Vancouver for university. Annie is a recent graduate of SFU and currently works to promote arts-related events in Vancouver.

Unable to establish herself as either Cantonese or Canadian, she examines how identities are constructed regardless of such titles through situational means. Her work questions the possibility of existing without these titles. In her current practice, she aims to piece together a hybrid identity based on her lived experiences in Asia and Canada.



Natalie
Chan

Natalie Chan recently completed her BFA in Visual Arts at Simon Fraser University. Her practice often focuses on the relational aspects of people & places, as well as the inner turmoils & complexities of the human condition. In the creation of her works, she aims to highlight the ideas of reflection, healing, and reconciliation as tangible possibilities in each encounter. Her latest interests include learning how to tattoo, in understanding both the technical skills & intimate relation between artist and the livelihood of their canvas.



Opal
Mclean

Mclean is best described as the “selfish artist” meaning her practice entirely revolves around herself. Her work often relates back to a mental psyche that cannot be described by words alone. Instead, it can be described by an action. A reference to a state of being or a performance that lends to the way her brain functions. This manifestation and documentation of different processes becomes her tool to relate to the outside world. Her own existence comes into question in a way that so many experience in their own daily life. This experience becomes a social, cultural, and political connection to her projects. Her work becomes both alienating but connecting in a shared experience that translates through different media.



We put out new issues every month with a different topic.

We are always looking for submissions and opportunities to collaborate so check out our social medias.

on instagram:
@withintensions

or email us at:
within.tensions@gmail.com

If you want more information feel free to contact us.

Our next issue will be on the topic of “Culture” and submissions are now open.

See you next month!

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A special shout out to Kitty Walker for allowing us to review her show Fiiiiish.

We are excited to share our future works with you and we hope to provide more opportunities for artists alike.

