

I understand the sentiment, I had a habit once myself. It gets you into all sorts of trouble, the one that finds you with a fist full of copperwire in the pale moonlight, among other marginal epiphanies. It was for that mosquito-bite-itch-feeling you get when you're doing it. The frenzy is real and you can feel every follicle in your scalp. There isn't anything like it, that feeling you get doing it- y'know the one - when the haters are watching.

I would have declared "I want to live under the tyranny of poetry!" But those were the days where I didn't know anything could be declared aside from "I guess if someone else wants to buy this I should take it before that asshole can." I was busy being all things: hotelier, chef, stock broker, realtor. The verse I was familiar with was found in mortgage papers, recipe cards, and in the index portfolios of certain Communist fishermen.

I stood at my saw and cut the business bits to business pieces reassembling them in money making configurations. Marks called that the "Comedy Form" or something along those lines. His accent was so thick, and the words put me to sleep, but I got the gist. Working four different jobs eight hours a day begs you to seek your habit where you can. It started by sweeping up sawdust into patterns. It started by tuning blades. It started by tracing the contour of a great, big, unknown and unknowable bird onto the back of every invoice with a wet sharpie. My bird would bleed through to the front. I made my music where I could.

My sister's dog went into heat the other week. She said the dog was so scared and anxious because it had no clue what was going on. Instinct startles all well trained beasts, but the urge to do the habit isn't an instinct - it's less coercive than that, but it isn't a choice either - it's more coercive than that. Creation begs a rare question. Instead of "What's gonna happen to me if I do this?" it's "What's gonna happen to me if i don't do this?"

I was in too deep to call this a hobby and I lacked the air of dignity that amateurs have. I would eat shit off the pavement for this. I never thought I would give myself to something so declassé as an obsession. So I made the choice to be evil. Not evil in the ways a cop, American presidents or Home Owners Association boards are. I elect to be evil in the way that I am wholly and transcendently invested in a thing that is so far outside the domain of polity, discourse and use that it has made me a bitter leper that not even Christ, Himself would cure. In spite of myself and all decency I retreated to pursue that bilious whatever - to make my own Republic.

I keep my shit fresh with new copper, new quartz, new aluminum. When the posers, haters, and hangers-on are watching I can block them out just enough. The habit requires a degree of outside scrutiny to feed its spleen, but it dreads becoming a public affair. My habit is an exhibitionist suffering from agoraphobia. Too much exposure and the voyeur can catch my hands while they catch my new waves, new piles, new pitches, new timbres, new lines, new words. Every good signal, every bad signal beamed from my head to my hands, my hands to the dust of habit.

Clare Koury is an artist based in New York City. She holds a BFA from the University of Chicago and an MFA from Columbia University. Recent and Upcoming exhibitions include a solo commission at Josephine Sculpture Park (Frankfurt, KY) and Fall River MoCA (Fall River, MA). Her work has been featured in exhibitions at Unclebrother, Fragment, and M23 (New York) as well as Apparatus Projects, Produce Model and Elastic Arts (Chicago).

BEVERLY FRESH (Zack Ostrowski) is a contemporary artist and musician from the United States of America. He has broken several Guinness Book World Records; including breaking the most eggs on his head and compiling the tallest stack of rap tapes. Recent notable exhibitions and performances include, REALLY SOMETHIN ELSE (2018), DePaul Art Museum (Chicago), MR MDWST - A REAL GOOD TIME (2015), Cranbrook Museum of Art (Bloomfield Hills) TAKE THE BACK ROADS AND COLLECT MYSELF (2014) Pavillon am Milchhof (Berlin), He has a BFA in Graphic Design/ Interactive Media from the College for Creative Studies and an MFA from the 2D Department at Cranbrook Academy of Art. He currently serves as Associate Professor, Head of Graphic Art at DePaul University.