

I CAN'T
BE BOTHERED
TO BE AN
"Artist"

When I showed my parents the finished version of this comic, they said that they liked it, but were worried that I might lose my scholarship or get a bad mark. Ironic, because a strong focus throughout my education has been critical thinking. If I'm going to think critically, I might as well have fun with it.

I started hearing capitol "A's" about halfway through this semester. It was a relief. Before differentiating "a" and "A", I had been quite stressed and confused. I was full of angst and resentment towards Art systems but was simultaneously trying to navigate them. I wasn't sure what I wanted or what I should want. I was being confronted with many contradicting values and opinions and was struggling to determine what felt true.

During reading week, I had a discussion with an older family friend (an artist). My parents had suggested she and I might like to "talk art". She was in the neighbourhood for a residency at the hospital. She was doing arts programming for the hospital staff, something to help those that have been overwork and/or traumatized in the past few years. I was confronted by a brief memory that had long been forgotten: art is good for you.

The existence of the field of Art Therapy seemed to contradict everything I was feeling about Art.

I was immediately stressed by the addition of yet another set of values and opinions being dumped onto my ever-growing pile-

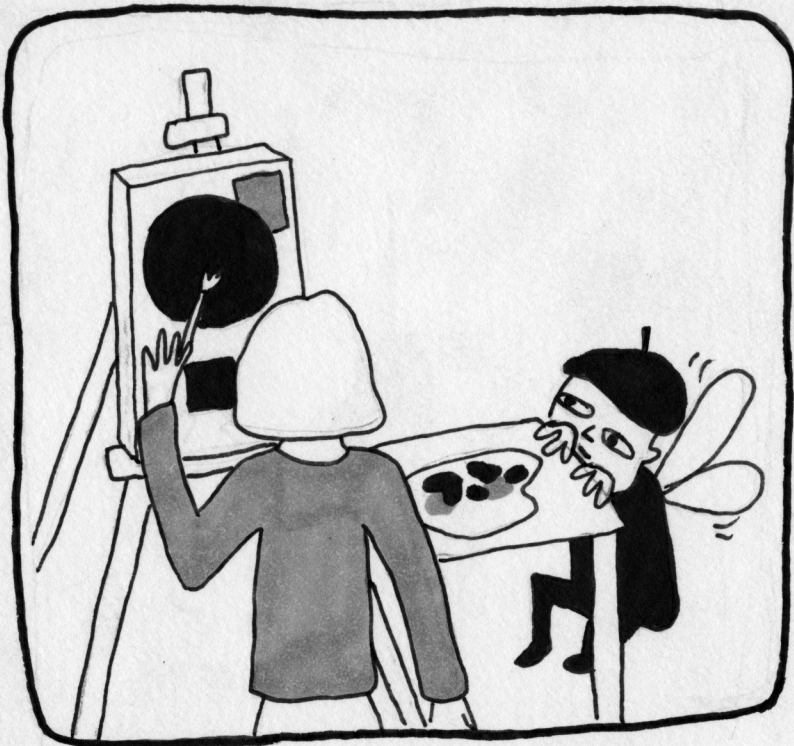
Nurses aren't allowed to make Art! Doctors aren't Artists! -Then, why was this artist friend being paid large amounts of money to facilitate art programming for them?

It was days later that I realized that there was a distinction between the Art that I was learning about at school and the art that surrounds me and serves my community. When I went back to classes I could hear the distinction as clear as day. "Artist" and artist. Two separate things. One of which I am a part of and have always been, and the other, one that had felt obligatory yet unattainable.

The comic is inspired by a multitude of things I have heard, observed, seen, and read, in seminar class and my time spent getting a BFA. But I felt most inspired to make it after hearing my professor say one specific thing. Something that if I had heard before discovering the distinction between art and "Art", would have sent me into a nervous spiral. But, after hearing it with a clear, distinct, capitol "A" I couldn't help but laugh.

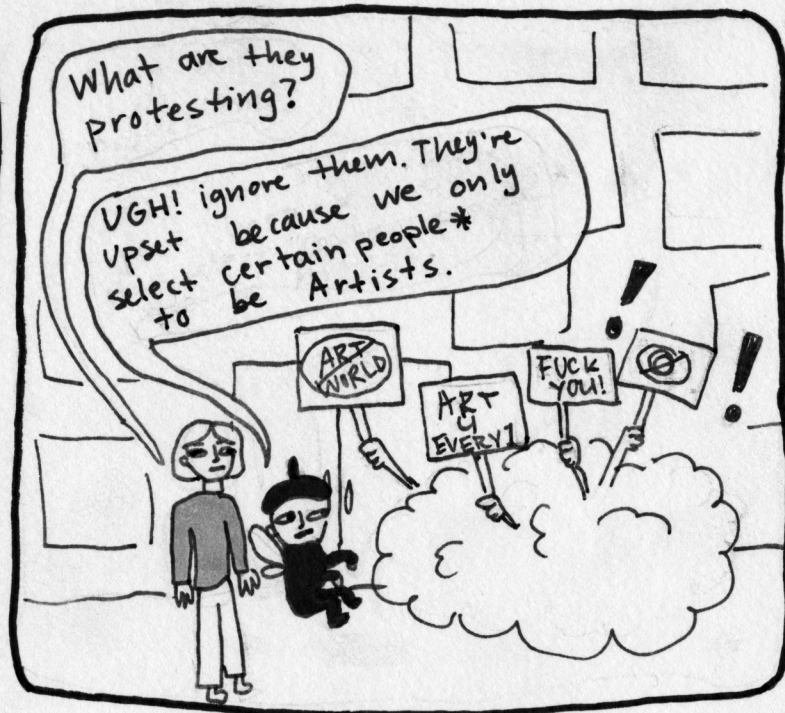
So, I made it my personal motto to keep me sane as I navigate my first attempt at becoming an "Artist".

-Sophia Lawrence



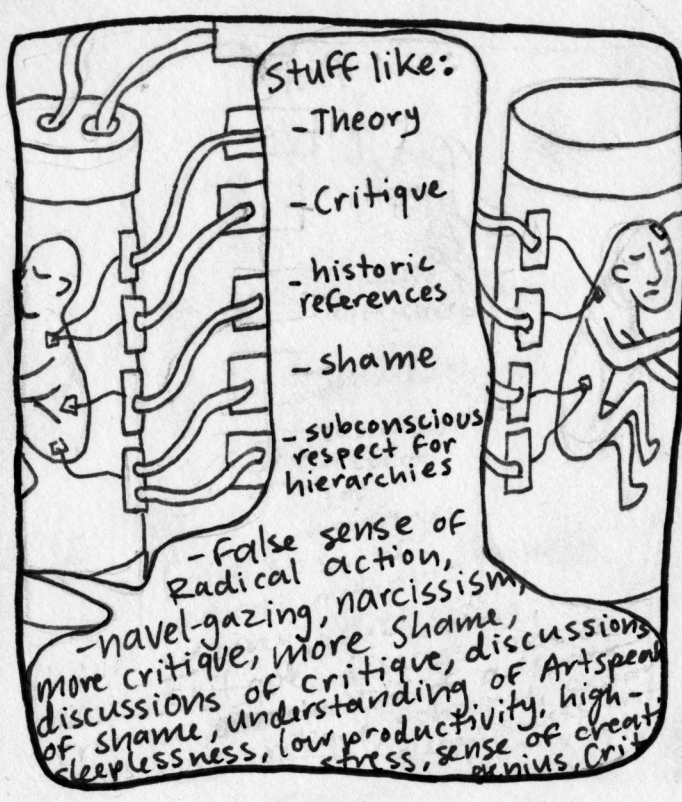
*"Painting" here meaning: The process of using paint, in picture, as a protective coating or as decoration

*Artist here meaning: . . .



*"INC." here meaning: a company or organization, formed into a legal corporation.

*"Certain People" : old white men and cis-het white dudes. - The protesters are referring to the racist, sexist, homophobic practices of the Art World Inc.



*Artist: Someone who is recognized by the institution, formally trained and certified genius

*artist: someone who makes art and is not respected for it.

*The "A" in Artist stands for Academic and/or Asshole. Both are widely accepted.



* Cool City is the new art hub. It is a cross between Montreal, Berlin, and New York. the rent is \$6500-\$8500/m, but is the best (only?) place to make it as an Artist.

* Starving Artist: an artist who sacrifices material well-being in order to focus on their artwork.

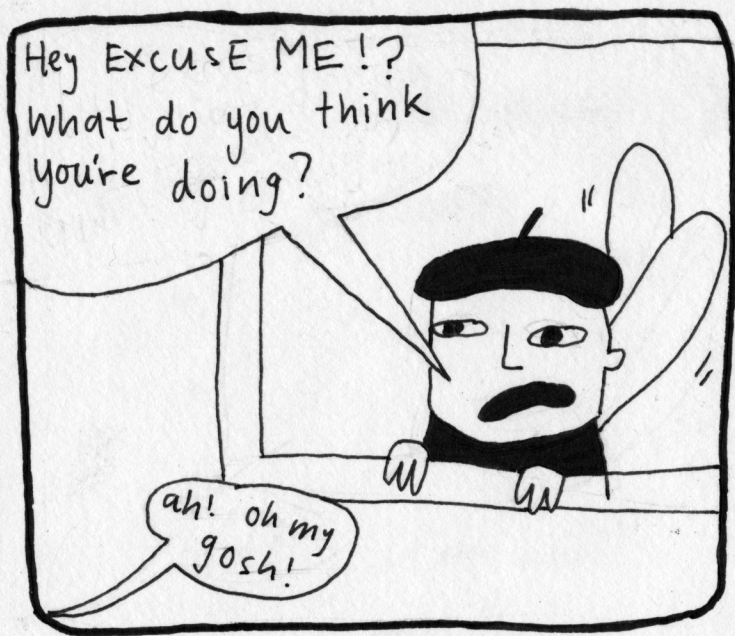
* Sob: to cry noisily, making loud, conclusive gasps.



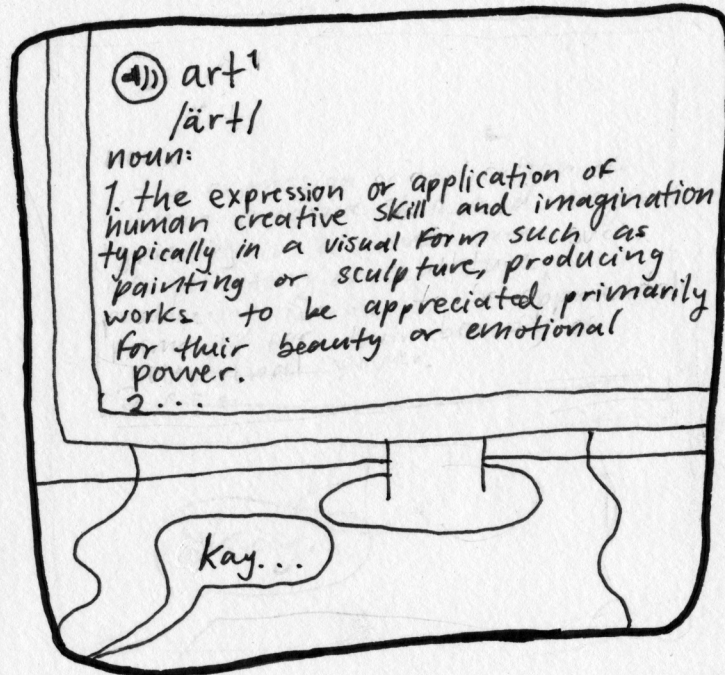
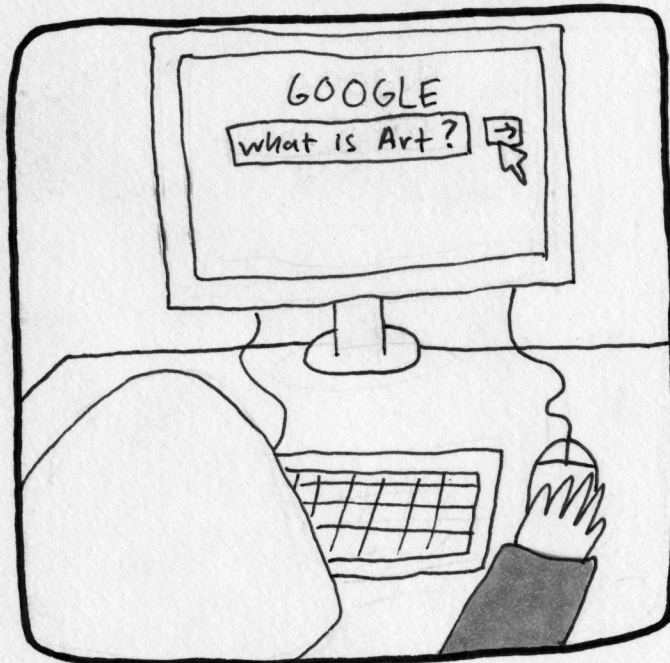
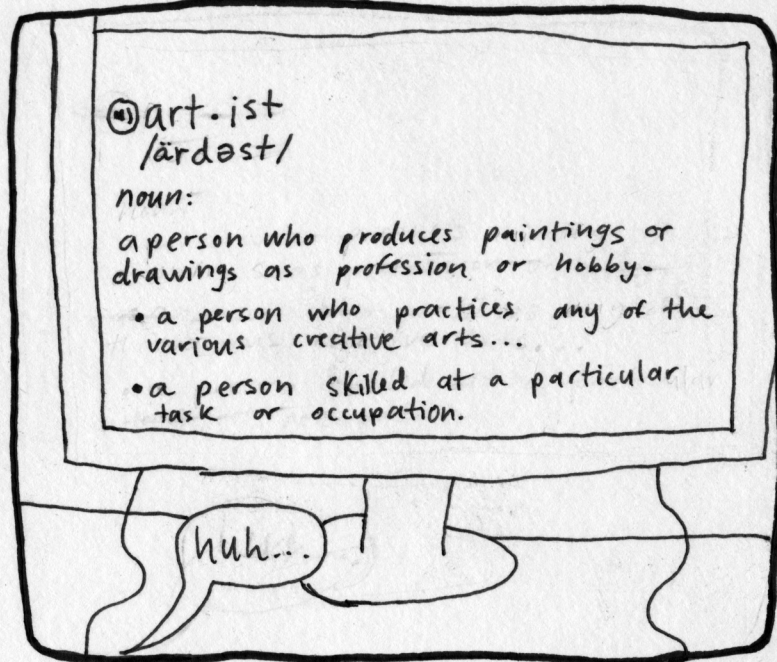
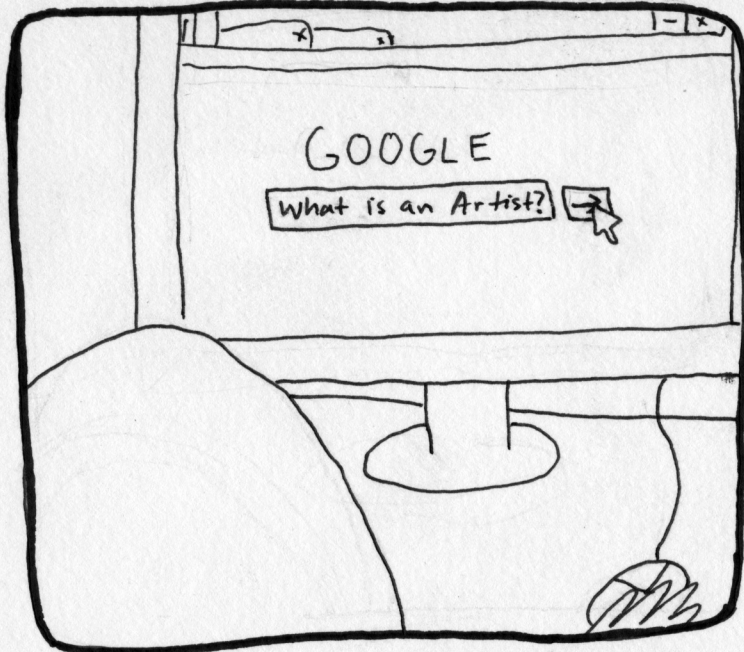
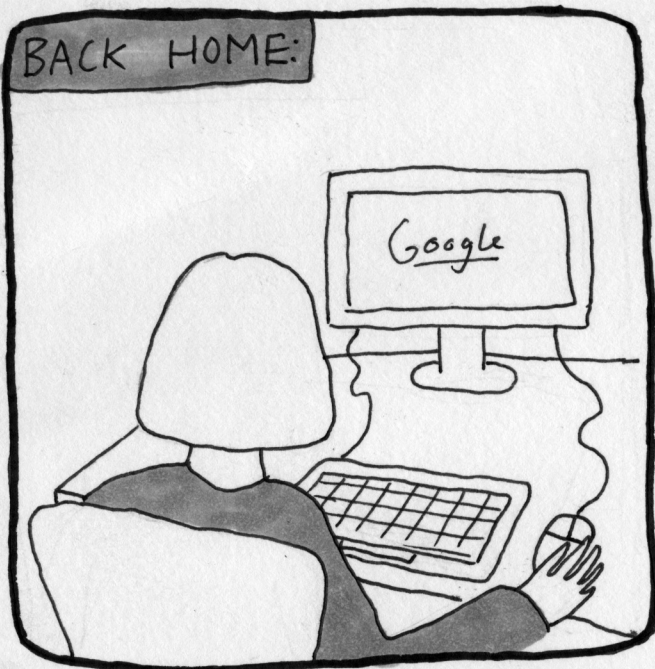
* Art Council (sister organization of Art World Inc.) offers public funding and awards to Artists they know and like.

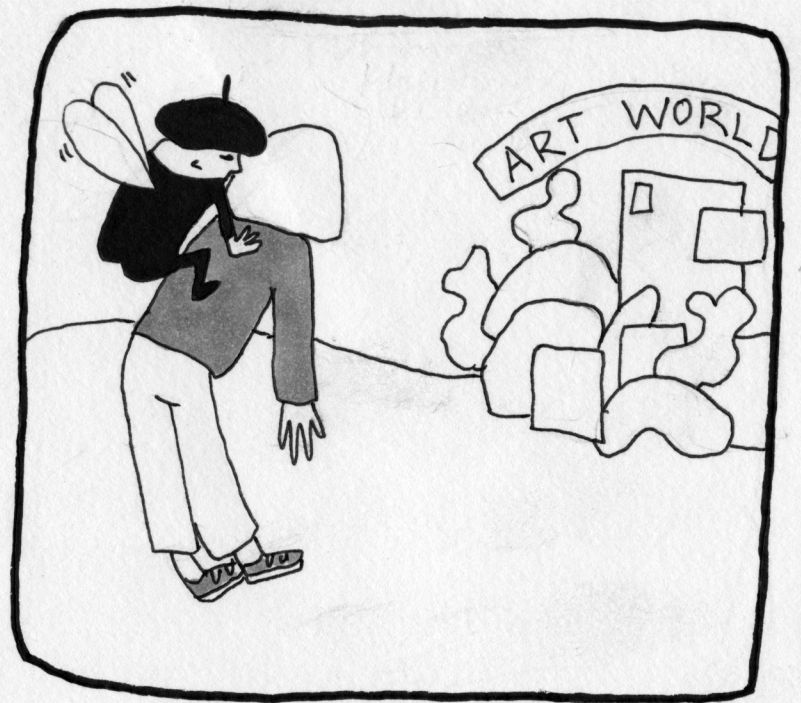
* Art Code: a set of rules (enforced by Art World Inc.) that ensure all Artists behave properly.

* Beep Beep: a short, high pitched sound emitted by electronic equipment....



* ART CODE rule #134: students who complete a BFA program, must never be tempted by "money" and "jobs".

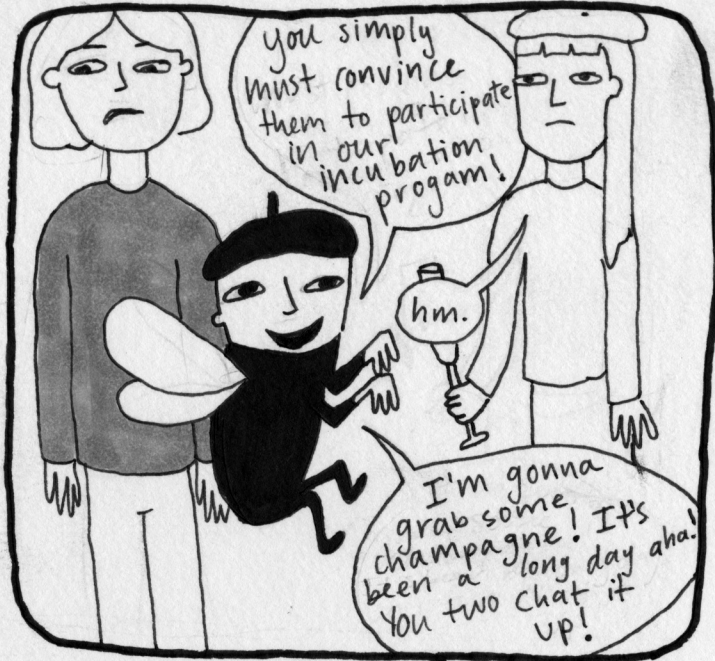




*in reference to classist, sexist, racist (etc...)-exclusionary tendencies of Art World Inc.

* Sigh - in reference to a long, deep, audible breath.

* WHYT BAUX GALLERY - very prestigious, non-commercial gallery, directly associated and funded by Art World Inc.



* Art Code rule #17: Artist must be constantly engaging with critique.