

What's the deal with creativity?

Ok ok ok ok ok ok ok bear with me for a second. I'm gonna change my focus again.

All my life, the things I've made that I've been the proudest of have all come from school assignments. Essays, presentations, drawings of fictional creatures in the WWE... as weird as it feels to admit, almost all of my best work has been school-related. This was especially evident during the long school break caused by COVID; I always thought that if I had that type of hiatus I would use it to do something awesome and creative, but when the time came to prove to myself that I could execute all my *big ideas*, I had not the inspiration nor the gall to get started.

Here were the two mistakes I made during that time that led to possibly the 5 most boring months of my life:

- 1) I had *big ideas*, not small, reasonable ideas.
- 2) I expected inspiration to *descend upon me from the heavens*, turning me into the next Da Vinci/Shakespeare/Beyonce without me having to lift a finger. Turns out, that's not how it works.

“Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working.”

~Pablo Picasso



I've found that, like everyone else, my creative productivity is dependent less on sudden, brilliant, divine inspiration, and more on the act of *doing stuff*. That's the reason all the cool things I've made have come from school; it just happens to be the case that *doing stuff* is a staple of formal education.

Here's my plan: For at least the next [days until March SDA], I'm going to try to create one thing every day. That's it. I'm sure I'll end up changing it, but for now, the sole requirement is that each micro-project can't take longer than 3 hours to complete... as for what the project actually is, everything is fair game. I'm curious to see what I can do when work is constantly being done

and when none of my projects cross interday boundaries. I'll be sure to document everything along the way.

My sources of knowledge and inspiration will probably just be people that make things. Honestly, I'm more curious about the act of making stuff than anything I might actually wind up making. I recently heard of a visual artist - Beeple - that has produced one piece of art every day for the last 14 years... he's one of the principal inspirations for this idea of mine, so I'll be seeing if I can learn anything about creativity and productivity from him and others like him.

Yes, time will be an issue, and yes, the concept of the project as a whole seems a little shaky right now since I've yet to do a micro-project. So sue me. I'll do one tomorrow, and hopefully, by the symposium, I'll have an entire gallery of micro-projects to show to all my fellow EMCers.