



BINOCLE MEETS THE ILLUSTRATOR

DAVIDE BONAZZI

IN THIS SERIES, BINOCLE TRIES TO GRASP THE CORE OF WHAT AN ILLUSTRATOR INSPIRES AND THRIVES IN 10 QUESTIONS.

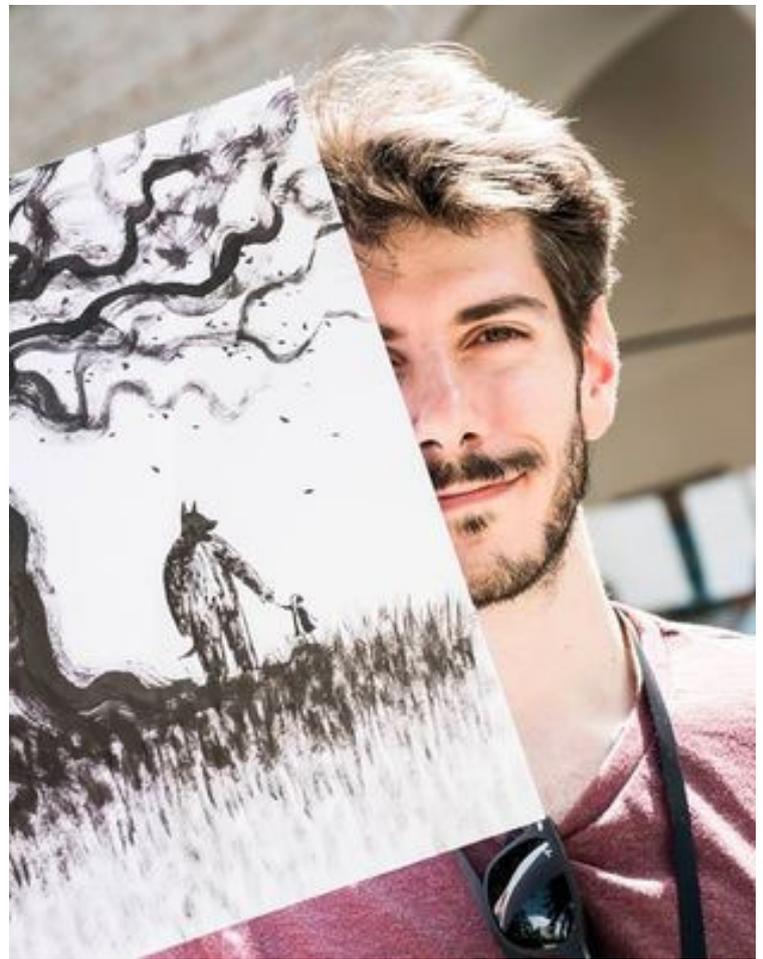
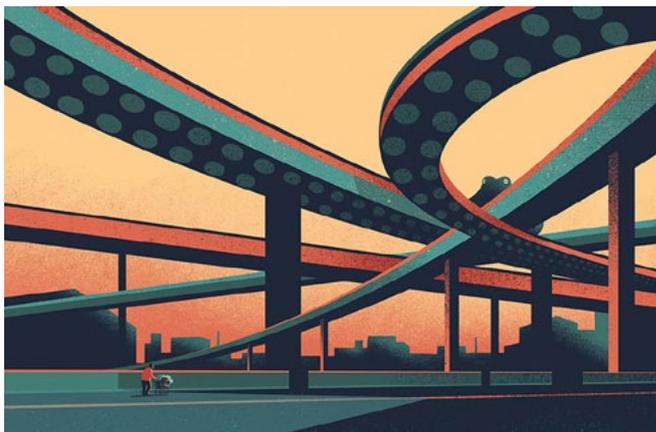
I DISCOVERED DAVIDE BONAZZI'S WORK AT THE 2018 BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S FAIR AND WAS INSTANTLY CHARMED BY THE CONTRAST IN THE WARM COLOURS YET DESOLATE LANDSCAPES AND THE WIT BY INTRODUCING THOSE HIDDEN ANIMALS.

1. WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO MAKE THE DRAWINGS YOU SHOWED IN BOLOGNA? WHAT WAS YOUR SOURCE OF INSPIRATION?

AS MANY CITY KIDS RAISED IN THE '90S I'VE ALWAYS HAD A FASCINATION FOR ANIMALS, BUT IT WAS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE TO SPOT ELEPHANTS, WHALES OR EVEN JUST HORSES IN MY HOMETOWN - I JUST HAD TO WATCH THEM IN TV SHOWS OR IN BOOKS. UNLESS MY PARENTS TOOK ME TO THE LOCAL ZOO, THAT WAS A QUITE SAD PLACE. FOR THIS PROJECT I IMAGINED TO SEE THE CITY THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD WHO SEES ANIMALS HIDING IN THE ARCHITECTURES OF THE CITY WHERE HE LIVES, TRYING TO MAKE THOSE PLACES MORE INTERESTING THAN THEY ARE. I SUSPECT MANY KIDS TODAY STILL PLAY THIS GAME. ANYWAY THERE IS NO TEXT OR STORY AND THE PROJECT IS NOT PUBLISHED YET, BUT I'M PLANNING TO DO MORE IMAGES WITH SIMILAR SUBJECT.

2. WHAT DO YOU DO BESIDES YOUR ART THAT INSPIRES YOU?

I DON'T KNOW, I HAVE TOO MANY SOURCES OF INSPIRATIONS. MOSTLY THEY'RE ABOUT VISUAL ARTS. VISITING NEW PLACES IS PROBABLY THE MOST INSPIRING THING FOR ME. WHEN I'M NOT ILLUSTRATING I JUST TRY TO RELAX AND SPEND TIME WITH THE PEOPLE I LOVE.



3. IS THERE AN ARTIST THAT INSPIRES YOU OR WHOSE WORK HELPED YOU TO FIND YOUR OWN VISUAL LANGUAGE?

THERE ARE SEVERAL, BUT I'D LIKE TO MENTION ADELCHI GALLONI WHO'S BEEN A GREAT ILLUSTRATOR AND ARTIST. I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE HIM AS A TEACHER AND HE HAS BEEN A MODEL OF DEDICATION TO THIS PROFESSION.

4. WHERE DO YOU WORK? DO YOU HAVE AN ATELIER OF YOUR OWN?

I WORK AT HOME. BETTER IF YOU DON'T SEE MY ACTUAL WORKSPACE, IT'S MESSY AND FULL OF BOXES BECAUSE I'M MOVING HOUSE!

5. HOW DO YOU PROCESS AN IDEA INTO AN ILLUSTRATION?

I START WITH DOING A LIST OF KEY WORDS AND SKETCHING SOME ROUGH IDEAS ON A SHEET OF PAPER. THERE'S NO MAGIC TRICK, I JUST TRY TO FOCUS AND RACK MY BRAINS A LOT. THEN I SELECT SOME OF THE SKETCHES AND DRAW THEM DIGITALLY, AND SEND TO THE CLIENT FOR APPROVAL. AFTER THEY MAKE THE CHOICE, I WORK ON THE DETAILS AND ADD COLORS.





6. ARE THERE THEMES (OR COLORS, COMPOSITIONS, PERSPECTIVES) THAT YOU ESPECIALLY LOVE TO WORK WITH? COULD YOU SAY WHAT IS TYPICAL ABOUT YOUR WORK? HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE? WHICH MEDIA DO YOU WORK WITH?

I'M EXCITED WHEN I HAVE TO ILLUSTRATE SOCIAL ISSUES, BUT MY GOAL IS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS VISUALLY SO THE SUBJECT IS NOT THAT IMPORTANT AFTER ALL. I HAVE A THING FOR LANDSCAPES AND CITYSCAPES, BUT I FEEL STIMULATED WHEN I HAVE TO DRAW SOMETHING THAT I'VE NEVER DONE BEFORE. I'D DESCRIBE MY STYLE AS CONCEPTUAL, SINCE I'D LIKE TO CREATE ILLUSTRATIONS WITH A STRONG METAPHOR INSIDE IT, OR JUST A FUN VISUAL PUN. I WORK WITH DIGITAL MEDIA.

7. IS THERE A PURPOSE WHEN YOU MAKE AN ILLUSTRATION? WHAT DO YOU AIM AT (IF ANYTHING?)

THE PURPOSE IS TO MAKE A CLEAR, STRONG ILLUSTRATION THAT'S A PRETTY STRAIGHT SHOOTER. REGARDING THE SUBJECT, I TRY TO MAKE ILLUSTRATIONS THAT MAKE PEOPLE THINK, AND SMILE IF POSSIBLE.

8. DO YOU HAVE A READER IN MIND WHEN YOU WORK? IF SO, WHAT DOES THIS READER LOOK LIKE?

WHEN I WORK ON COMMISSION, THE FIRST READER IS ALWAYS THE CLIENT AND THE ART DIRECTOR. I'VE LEARNT A LOT FROM BRILLIANT, OPEN-MINDED ART DIRECTORS WORKING FOR PUBLISHERS, ADVERTISERS, INSTITUTIONS. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO BUILD A CONNECTION WITH THEM AND I DO MY BEST TO "WOW" THEM. BUT WHEN I DO PERSONAL PROJECTS, THE READER LOOKS MORE LIKE A PERSONAL FRIEND, A LOVED PERSON, OR JUST MYSELF.



9. WHAT DO YOU FIND ESSENTIAL IN AN ILLUSTRATION?

AN ILLUSTRATION SHOULD BE VISUALLY STRONG AND BEAUTIFUL, THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING. I ALSO THINK IT SHOULD BE PRETTY STRAIGHT FORWARD AND HAVE A DIRECT MESSAGE.

ARE THERE ANY ARTIST-ILLUSTRATORS THAT YOU LOVE AND YOU WANT US TO KNOW ABOUT?

THERE ARE MANY, I LOVE THE WORK OF RICCARDO GUASCO, VICTORIA SEMYKINA, ILARIA URBINATI, MATTEO BERTON, SARAH MAZZETTI, GABRIELE PINO, MARINA MARCOLIN,... THE LIST IS LONG!

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