



HIS OWN PRIVATE WONDERLAND

| By Jordan Gass-Poore |

New Braunfels Artist Johnny Duncan's Outlandish Look on Life

As a child, New Braunfels resident Johnny Duncan's grandfather would describe characters for him to draw on tracing paper. Together they created a colony of gingerbread men and other fantasy worlds.

At the time, Duncan didn't think this activity would lead to a career as an artist. The compliments he received for his drawings by his peers in elementary school didn't convince him either. It wasn't until he was 13, when he discovered street art in the video game "Tony Hawk's Underground 2", that drawing became more than just a pastime.

"Bigfoot One changed my life," said the 22-year-old Duncan of the California-based artist who had characters in the game.

Unlike his mythical moniker, Bigfoot One is not unapproachable or scary. Duncan said they've had e-mail exchanges. He's also received props from Bigfoot One for his tattoo of one of the artist's characters.

Duncan's characters spiraled out of his notebooks and onto New Braunfels High School classroom dry erase boards and desks.



"I DIDN'T LIKE ART CLASSES, I DIDN'T LIKE BEING TOLD WHAT TO DO."

This wasn't graffiti. This was Duncan's outlet for artistic expression. It was either this or art class. "I didn't like art classes," said Duncan, known professionally as Jenkins2D. "I didn't like being told what to do."

Duncan had his own set of rules that didn't quite fit the standards. "I just wanted to run around in Wonderland," he said -- with a pit stop at the Art Institute of Austin.

A representative from the institute came to his high school economics class and preached the gospel of graphic design. So Duncan joined the flock. His horde of cool, colorful characters joined him for the ride. Those makeshift Sharpie and Photoshop designs he was doing in high school improved at the institute.

He came, he saw, he conquered (but might not have mastered the Adobe Illus-

trator pen tool because of a gym-related concussion) and then he quit the institute in search of his own private Wonderland. "Do or die," Duncan said.

Do mode is definitely switched to on.

As creative director of Outlandish Apparel, an online lifestyle brand that he co-founded, he's assembled a team of artists to create clothing and organized community art shows. "We're recognizing as artists we can't do it alone," Duncan said.

Outlandish Apparel is a springboard for his work, which he describes as a mix of street and pop art, with characters that reflect humanity. "It goes back in time, while taking steps forward," he said.

In May Duncan took millions of steps forward when he participated in Illustrated 2015 in London, an event that brings together contemporary and street artists from around the world.



"No Passion, No Point"

Watch Johnny create an original piece on a three story building.

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