



Jonathan Twingley

Class of 1992

Like most artists of his generation, Jonathan Twingley began his career as an Abstract Expressionist, letting the paint do most of the thinking. Then he turned four, became a Social Realist and never really looked back.

Dale Twingley, Jonathan's Dad, was one of the founding art instructors at Century High School. Jonathan started drawing and painting in his Dad's home studios as well as in the art classrooms at Century High on weekends, when nobody was looking.

In 1996, after earning an undergraduate degree in Drawing from Minnesota State University Moorhead, Jonathan sent out a single graduate school application to a program at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. His application was accepted and his Mom, Carolyn Twingley, a librarian and archivist at Bismarck State College, made him go.

Since then his drawings and paintings have been published by the Atlantic, Harper's Magazine, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Boston Globe, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, the Nation, the Johns Hopkins University Gazette, the Chronicle of Higher Education and the New Republic among many others.

In 2009 Scribner/Simon & Schuster published his illustrated novel, THE BADLANDS SALOON. A love letter to his home state, the autobiographical novel takes place in a fictional western North Dakota town called Marysville where the protagonist spends a summer working at a mountain bike shop in-between years of art graduate school in New York City.

His work as an illustrator has been recognized by the New York Society of Illustrators, the Los Angeles Society of Illustrators (Bronze Medal), American Illustration, Communication Arts Magazine, The Best of News Design, the Society of Publication Designers, Creative Quarterly and PRINT magazine's New Visual Artists Review.

Twingley's self-publishing initiative – WORDS & PICTURES PRESS – focuses on his work in sketchbooks and has earned an international audience. Exhibitions of his drawings and paintings have hung in galleries and museums across the United States. And throughout his career as a freelance artist, as well as lecturing widely, Jonathan has taught at the college and university level.

After moving to New York City, people back home in North Dakota often asked him: "Jon, how long are you going to stay in the big city?" His answer was usually the same: "I could only afford a one-way ticket, so I guess I'm saving up for the return."

