

THE SHOW

I am fascinated with patterns and the translation of information into a visually interesting format. Like the veins on a leaf, a page from the phone book can be an inspiration. I really enjoy art that keeps the mind moving. Art that wants to play with you. I realize “playful” might not be the first word to come to mind when seeing my work, but it’s how I feel when I’m making it. It’s fun.



I prefer to work on and with circles as much as possible. They have a different “rhythm” than squares or rectangles. There is an organic interaction between a circle and the wall that a square just doesn’t have. Squares hang on the wall, circles play on it. I honestly can’t remember if I started working with circles because I had some lightning bolt of inspiration, or if I was just trying to be difficult (both are plausible). But I thank my ring of stars that I did. I am happier thinking in circles.



THE ARTIST

Sam Klein was born in Melbourne, Australia, and moved to the Portland area when he was two. His father was a government worker, and his mother was a graphic designer and children’s book illustrator. Growing up he was never short of materials to play and experiment with artistically. Klein began taking art classes at the age of seven and never stopped. He can’t remember a time when he didn’t know he was an artist.

In his artistic pursuits, Sam Klein has worked as a sign and mural painter, graphic designer, and illustrator. Among other things, he has painted guitars, buildings, vehicles, roller coaster cars, and a forklift or two. There was a dalliance with comic books in the 1990s that sometimes threatened to almost go somewhere. Graffiti is perhaps one of Klein’s favorite artistic tangents. It combined calligraphy, graphic design, color theory, marketing and strategic execution (although he claims he never quite perfected that last one). He enjoys working with non-traditional materials for the fact that you get to make the rules up as you go, because there aren’t any.

