When I was a precocious and broke lad in my 20s, one could cobble together a simple living by doing little pictures to accompany the stories in big magazines. The article could be about any silly thing, and the task would be to create a visual “bon-bon” to decorate the page and enchant the reader.

The notion almost seems quaint these 30 something years later. The harsh climate where the illustrator must dwell has changed for many reasons, as has the very nature of reading and seeing. The impulse and need to make pictures with content—to tell stories—will never change though. Our shaggy buddies were at it in the caves. After they’d put down their clubs, they’d pick up some pigment... A Cintiq tablet is not all that different from a rock wall if the truth be told, just a little neater.

But any picture maker so inclined must find the way to make their voice heard and cobble together that pesky living I referred to earlier. They must be better than just good, more perseverant than simply ambitious, and dedicated as if it were a calling. They must welcome any visual challenge with the tenacity of a prize fighter, and solve the visual problems like a scientist. They must navigate the terrain of composition, color, line, form, and pictorial content with the deftness of a downhill Olympic skier—it’s very tricky to create fictive worlds that convey meaning. Believe me or any other caveman.

Every year another crop of young artists graduate from SVA from the Illustration Department and Cartooning Department. They are put through their paces by the cracker-jack faculty. They dodge obstacles, jump hurdles, go into battle, and return with medals. As this volume attests, they are armed with great skill and have the passion needed to succeed in our always challenging world. They will thrive in traditional media, and create new ones. Their work will elevate our visual lives in the future, and we look forward to the beauty they will provide for us in the years to come...now all they need to do to start is cobble together a little living....

I would like to thank the Senior Portfolio Illustration and Cartooning faculty who helped in the selection process; Steve Brodner, Chris Buzzelli, T.M. Davy, Frances Jetter, Marvin Mattelson, Keith Mayerson, David Mazzuchelli. Gary Panter, Carl Potts, Yuko Shimizu and Jillian Tamaki.

We also thank President David Rhodes for his vision and support of this ongoing document.

THOMAS WOODRUFF
Chair, BFA Illustration and BFA Cartooning Departments, 2013
The Continuing Adventures of Existential Man and Nihilism Lad

And Introducing "The Essentialist!"

Existence precedes essence, chump!
“Pauline really should have kept quiet
about Frank’s bowtie.” sighed Harriet.
HANAKU
kuhana23@yahoo.com | www.hanakuart.com
¡BACON!
“Drugs just don’t make sense.”

Drugs: a Deadly Game.
TO HAVE A SPELL CAST ON YOUR BEHALF: 1-900-370-3310 48009-36

BEN MENDELEWICZ 2013