

Comics Journalism

Officially, my role is Press as “Sketch Reporter” for The [Comics] Beat, that I am very excited to enact. For years decades, I’ve been going to comic cons as an independent artist, and depicted the panel talks featuring creator and publisher insights. People always assumed I was with the convention or press, scribbling copious notes with my clipboard and holster of markers. Then in spring 2023 my artwork was used for an article about MoCCA Fest, and I asked to continue this dynamic with intentionality at NYCC and other events. So it’s good to finally have that easy answer of “Yes, I’m with the Press.”

Because I’m allowed to wander all corners, and follow my own interests, it’s a very freeing experience. However, while this approach gets me access and opens doors, it doesn’t substantially compensate. For the situation to become viable, presumably I must garner a following noteworthy enough to be undeniably worth paying directly, and/or catch the interest of larger publications and marketing teams that recognize its value as unique media content, thereby will sponsor or hire me to prepare & produce this kind of work properly. (Can share more on the disconnect between what I “should” be enacting from a “best practices” standpoint, and the unfortunate but practical limitations of my fractured life.)

Lapsed/Eternal Fan

Personally, my love for anime dates back to high school in the early 2000s, when anime/manga was growing in popularity but still very niche in the U.S. My first big events like this were the anime cons, and I kept reading manga online over the years. I’m always very excited to have conversations about it. Except as an artist, my time is extremely limited, and I now spend more time making than consuming. Hence, I’ve only somewhat stayed up to date on latest releases, when I used to be at the cutting edge. Most of my comics reading is now on Webtoon, that caters to those stylistic tastes yet varies in sources.

Independent Creator

Creatively, my stories & endeavors are influenced by the appearance, flow, and sensibilities of manga and anime. Ideally, these effort can continue in a bigger way if supported by Patreon.

Artist For Hire

Artistically, working in that style, potentially for publishers or collab with other indie creators.

Potential Employee

Professionally, open to various job opportunities. Editorial, admin, designer, even warehouse.

Booth assistant for special events, whether for a major publisher or personal friend.

Semi-solidified gig work is what secured my presence at Flame Con last weekend.

Have occasionally applied to work directly for the conventions, in a special-events or permanent role.

Community Organizer

Altruistically, helping other creators

Looking out for the best in others

That is why I hope to be sponsored for my personal efforts or hired to improve the overall experience, so that I can have the bandwidth and resources to do so. It reminds me that being Press really is one of the best things I can do, because I’m running around the event talking to everyone.

Any of these roles will put me in a better position for helping others and supporting the (joy+excellence) of the arts & community, that is my “heart reason” for it all.