



Artist Statement:

Tyler Benke

My art captures imagination. Whether it is the childlike imagination I fondly remember, or my own ever growing thoughts and ideas, I confide my feelings in my artwork. In exploring these feelings, I find that I am most interested in representing childlike imagination and the issue of cultural desensitization. These are more than focuses for me, but a foundation for me as an artist. The childlike building blocks of storytelling, imagination, and wonder create a place for play. But also a place where ideas can mutate. Desensitization is an important topic in a digital age, and throughout the years my work has gone on to cover sensitive issues of desensitization, which I've found correlate with imagination all too well.

The focus of my work is constantly ebbing and flowing as I continue to develop and understand what I have directly observed from myself and my friends as we have grown up. I am interested by the idea of desensitization through years of play; the idea that over time, as novelty wears away, the notion of "play" must get more and more advanced to stimulate or induce a reaction in a generation that always craves more.

My artwork features illustrative techniques and an exact, detailed approach. I have captured this subject in mediums varying from painting to animation to live action. I Because of the broad range of artistic mediums I have used, I have been inspired by a broad range of artists; from pop artist Andy Warhol to animators such as Paul Robertson.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Original Format</u>
Figure 1: Desensitization	Film, MP4
Figure 2: Spin	Animation, MP4
Figure 3: "Fun"	Appropriated Footage, MP4
Figure 4: Alien Attack	360 Video, MP4