

Shantell Martin 1980-Present

Martin's Story In Her Own Words

Youtube video.

Video Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ywYnk0-xUY>

Safe You Tube Link: <https://safeshare.tv/x/ss5f8defl dbb822>

Slide 1: Shantell Martin

Martin is a visual artist born in 1980 in London, England.

Slide 2: Martin's Style

Martin's style is contemporary and improvisational. She uses primarily markers to draw, but also pens and sometimes spray paint. Her art focuses on lines and shapes, and generally has no color, as she explained in the video.

Extension:

Martin's work is a meditation of lines; a language of characters, creatures and messages that invites viewers to share a role in the creative process.

She went to art school in London and then went to Japan where she began her career.

Martin's "Why": To answer the question "Who are you?" and to create a line that anyone can recognize as hers.

Slide 3: Art Element: Line

Lines are the primary element in Martin's work. She says "this initial line for me is the DNA. It's the structure. It's the foundation of the drawing. It's what holds it all together. She starts with a line and then she adds other elements like faces, words, or symbols into the drawing. She has worked very hard to create lines that anyone would recognize as hers.

Optional: A line is a dot that you take for a walk

Try using your finger to make a line: make a dot, then take it for a walk.

Slide 4: Faces

Faces are also often seen in her work. This picture shows faces she created using flashlights in the dark.

Slide 5: Words

Many of Martin's pieces include words which share ideas, thoughts or questions. Her art becomes a combination of drawing and writing which can inspire the viewer of the piece differently than artwork without words.

Extension:

About the artwork "The Oculus" from: <https://shantellmartin.art/work/the-oculus/>

"For Art Production Fund's third installment of their video art program, they commissioned Shantell Martin for a site-specific video piece. The video work appeared on Westfield World

Trade Center's 21 screens of varying sizes, with one measuring four stories tall and another 280 feet long. This new work by Martin explores some of the questions and repetitions we find ourselves asking: Are You being You? Are You being true? Who are You? Are you YOU. Permutations of the same questions are repeated throughout the work and resonate in viewers in both subtle and more profound ways.

The work intentionally plants questions for viewers to reflect upon and to consider as they pass through the center whether heading to work or on their way home. These illustrations were designed by Martin on a digital tablet and were collected and animated by collaborator Optical Animal.

"The World Trade Center is my route home most of the time and these are the thoughts I've had in the space often that will now be visible on the screens." – Shantell Martin.

Slide 6: Collaboration: Shantell and Dot

Martin liked to create art with her Grandmother, Dot. Dot liked to add color and words to Shantell's black and white works.

Extension:

"Martin's "Dear Grandmother" collaboration was born over a decade ago when Martin commissioned her grandmother, Dot Martin, to embroider her "Half White" series as a reflection on racial identity. Since then, the pair have worked on over 70 pieces together, with Dot adding her own touches of color or language along the way. Martin sees the pieces as symbolically bridging gaps of distance, generation, race and culture, creating an inclusive backdrop for artistic creation.

With phrases like "Come Home" / "Go Home", "British" / "English," the pieces are both challenging yet comforting, and playful yet ironic. With Dot Martin passing away in October of 2015 at the fine age of 80-Something (Dot never did tell anyone her actual age), Shantell felt extremely grateful that she was able to find such a fun and creative way to collaborate with her Grandmother before her passing and that the work they collaborated on was exhibited in the Brooklyn Museum."

Source: <https://shantellmartin.art/work/x-dot-martin/>

Slide 7: Murals

Martin likes to create large murals, like this one which can be found in Buffalo, NY. It is the largest of her murals and took six hours to complete.

Slide 8: Drawing on Everything

Martin said she will draw on everything - including the road. Here she has created a drawing using spray paint while driving across the United States.

Slide 9: Detail Ideas and Marker Techniques

Martin uses various line thicknesses by using different sized markers or holding the marker at a different angle to the paper. She also uses many small illustrations and symbols in her drawings.