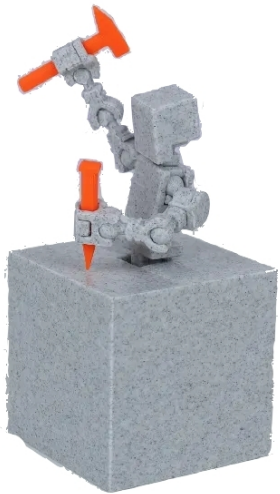


Doing The Lord's Work

An art show by Ryan Makes – 2024 August at Mallo in Toronto

When working at the limits of one's power and cleverness, the problems we create for ourselves cannot be solved without necessarily expanding our thinking and techniques. Putting on this show has been a great challenge that I underestimated, and I hope people enjoy how it turned out. I couldn't have gotten nearly this far without the moral and material support of Omar and the Mallo family and the people in my life I'm lucky enough to call friends.



My work is all derivative in one way or another, standing on the shoulders of giants. This is a major theme in one of this show's central pieces, *Self Made Mashup*, in which we find a figure in the violent process of self-creation.

This picture shows a copy of my Creative Commons licensed design printed in Germany by @CUBE3DORLD. Observe that the hammer is being held backwards.

No one can be truly self-made – that would be a contradiction. Apologies to sincere theists and libertarians, but even Benjamin Franklin (the prime example of a self-made man given on the Wikipedia page for the phrase) would credit divine providence. The show title relates to this faith, although I myself am a man without religion. Having physically escaped religious schooling as a child, I cherish freedom.

Freedom is my primary theme in my life and work and art.

Among freedoms and their inspirations, nihilism has delivered exceptional value for me, particularly as an educator. A meltdown can often be averted with a reminder (in a happy tone) “Don't worry, it doesn't matter – nothing matters.” Quite freeing!

One of the few non-3D-printed pieces in this show is my Chinese knock-off of the *Trophy of Perpetual Futility* which serves to soothe my anxieties over this show's success, and my outcomes in life in general. It usually lives on my mantle, beside my equally valid award for winning Atomic Lollipop's *Magic The Gathering* tournament. Knowing that all my works will share the fate of history's greatest kings takes some sting from the weight on my soul when I take stock of my accomplishments in this life.

Variations on classics from art history, like Duchamp's Fountain, Rodin's Thinker, and Geefs' Lucifer, serve as inspiration for my more original work. In Paris they have turned Rodin's estate into a museum, and it was comforting to see that the great master's work was controversial and unpopular during his life, and often took decades to ferment. It is in the spirit of honesty that I present a small handful of the prototypes created and destroyed over my years working on the design of my *Daydreamasaurus*.

Dreams and honesty are often the domain of children's literature, regarded in a cynical world as foolish and naive. In opposition to this attitude is the *Unless Well*, taken from the pages of *The Lorax*, a well-loved piece of pro-environmentalist anti-capitalist children's propaganda, and mounted atop the white rabbit from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. We are taught by the Lorax that “**Unless** someone like you cares a whole awful lot...”

Links:

Self Made Mashup printables.com/model/443999-self-made-mashup-self-made-man-x-mini-13

Trophy of Perpetual Futility topatoco.com/products/cg-trophy

Daydreamasaurus thingiverse.com/thing:2925012

This pamphlet *may* appear in expanded form at ryanmakes.ca :)

Please use the blank space inside to draw your dream, your wish, your mission...