

Interview with Jay Daniel Wright

Could you briefly introduce yourself?

I'm Jay Daniel Wright. A British illustrator/artist/woodworker now living in Berlin.

How would you describe your style (in three words)?

Graphic, fun and friendly.

In which subject areas do you specialize in your illustrations?

For commercial work there is no set area really. I'm lucky enough to get asked to work on all types of subject matter. But, for my personal work I would say I tend to lean into my interests and loves - like nature, mental health and personal experiences.

What are the specifics of designing a children's book (e.g. also related to the "nude art" chapter)?

Well, it depends on the design direction and the limits of the publisher. But it's always important for me to include a sense of humour in the work. With the nude art chapter we obviously had to pay special attention to what we should and shouldn't show. We didn't want to offend anyone of course.

How did your collaboration with Ben Street go? Did you design the book together?

No actually. Ben wrote the book and then (I'm guessing) approached Thames and Hudson. They handled the design and illustrations. I'm glad Ben liked what we all made together in the end. But I believe there was a lot of back and forth to make sure Ben was happy with the way the book was going.

What background information about a work of art particularly amazed you or clearly stuck in your mind?

I would say learning about the work of Ori Gerhst. His exploding frozen flowers work is great!

What is your favorite work of art? Why?

I think all of the work of James Turrell is amazing. His piece Ganzfelds really blew me away. I love the feeling of your senses being lost or altered. I think

E. A. SEEMANN HENSCHEL
VERLAGSGRUPPE

the way he makes you notice how light makes us feel, and how it affects how we experience the world is beautiful.

Have you always been a bit of an "art rebel" yourself? When did it first occur to you to approach art with such a view? What came first: the Art Rebel in you or the term for it before you became one yourself?

Haha, I don't think I'm so much of an art rebel to be honest. But I have always loved art, drawing and making things - making a big mess. When I went to art school I remember having the feeling art is not so complicated after all and it's more about how it makes you feel and interpretation. I think making art changes the way you see art.