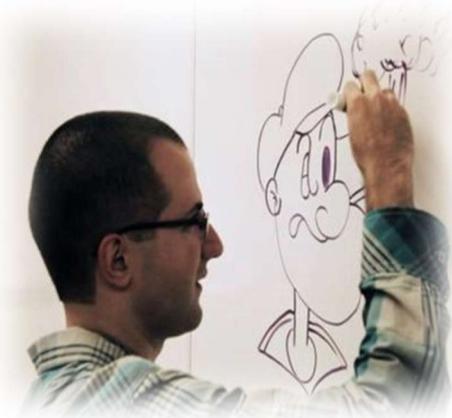


JUSTIN CANHA

New Jersey, Born 1989

Justin Canha is an accomplished artist who happens to be autistic. His drawings and illustrations demonstrate the intensity and perspective of the autistic mind and serve as a powerful form of communication.

His childhood passion and whimsical style for drawing and painting animals, plants and cartoon characters showcase his clever sense of humor and unusual sensitivity to nature, human and animal relationships. Justin also creates emotive charcoal portraits and paintings as well as computer-generated animations of invented characters. His mark-making is decisive and expressive, infusing his drawings with strong contours and bold gestures.



Justin's work first appeared on the New York art scene in 2005, in the Autism/Aspergers/Art exhibition at Ricco/Maresca Gallery which continues to represent him, and since then has been exhibited in many galleries, museums and universities throughout the United States. He was also the subject of an extensive profile in the New York Times, [Autistic and Seeking a Place in an Adult World](#), by Amy Harmon in September of 2011.

Justin has been recognized for his accomplishments at the McCarton Foundations “Genius of Autism” events, the Autism New Jersey Conference, and the Strokes of Genius – World Autism Awareness Day at the United Nations. Justin has several part-time jobs including as an assistant elementary school art teacher, a bakery cake/cupcake/cookie decorator, a freelance artist and children's book illustrator and a cartooning instructor. Justin was also hired by Strokes of Genius, Inc as a part-time art instructor, teaching young adults with autism comic stripping techniques.



He has been the subject of three documentary films, *Autism: A Different Way of Communicating* and *Sidecars*, the Sprout Film Festival at the MOMA, and in 2018 [Don't Foil My Plans](#), which explores Justin's journey to independence.