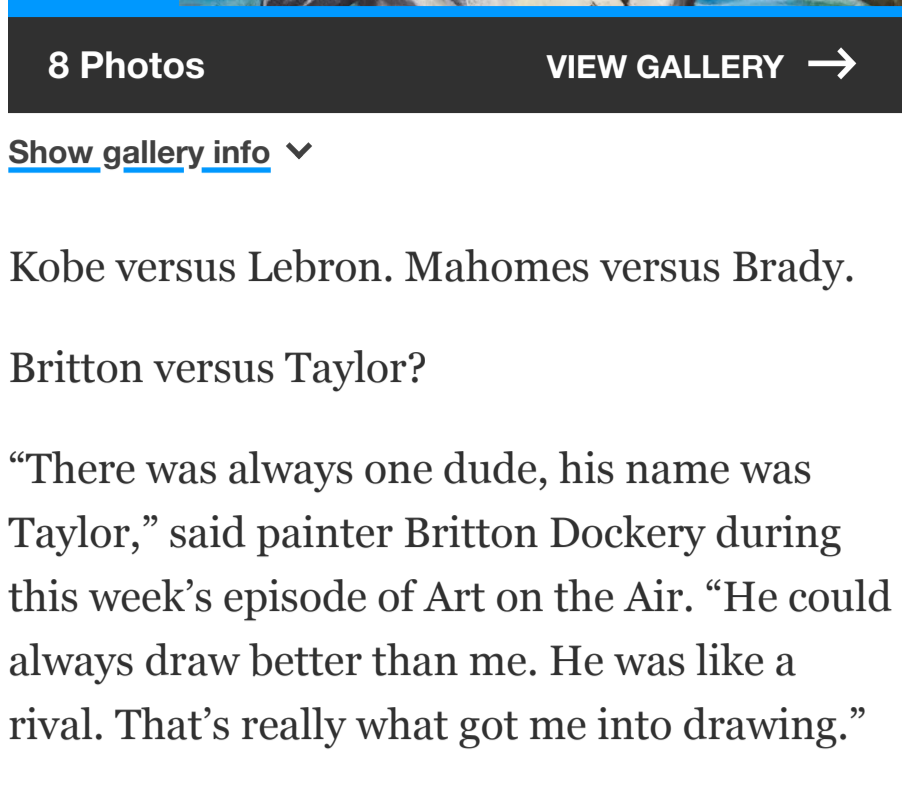


ENTERTAINMENT

Savannah artist Britton Dockery is the Lowcountry version of Salvador Dalí, M.C. Escher

Rob Hessler For Do Savannah

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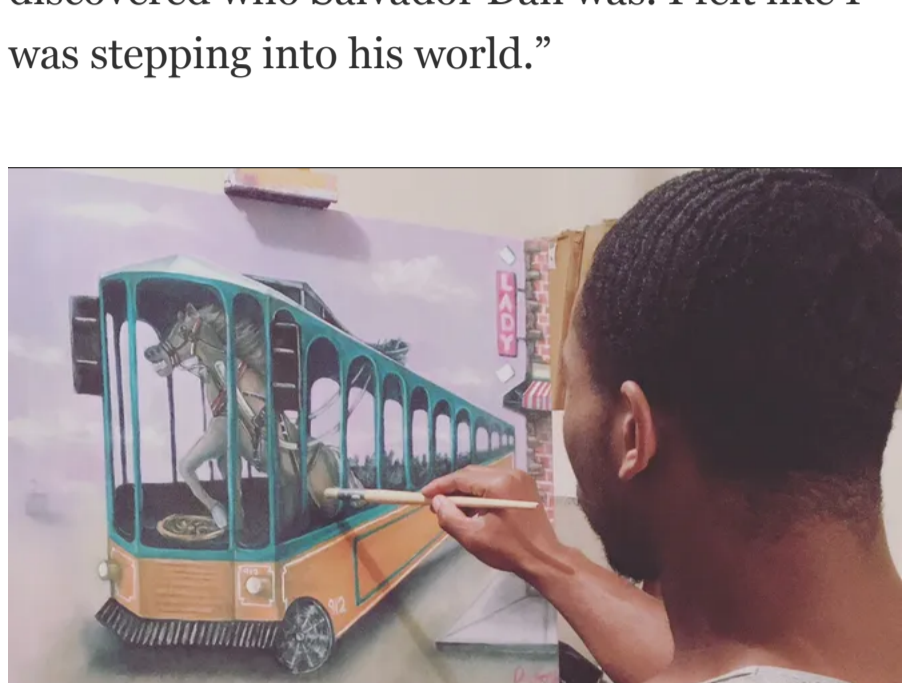
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Kobe versus LeBron. Mahomes versus Brady. Britton versus Taylor?

“There was always one dude, his name was Taylor,” said painter Britton Dockery during this week’s episode of Art on the Air. “He could always draw better than me. He was like a rival. That’s really what got me into drawing.”

That was long ago, back when the artist was a mere six years old and the “rivalry” mostly consisted of competing over whom could best depict their favorite characters from Dragon Ball Z. Taylor seems to have faded into obscurity, but Dockery’s early competitive spirit lead him to explore more sophisticated ideas as he got older.

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Art off the Air: [Shelley Smith isn't a sculptor, painter, jeweler, photographer or writer. She's a bit of everything.](#)

“When I got to high school, that’s when I started noticing a little bit more about fine arts,” he recalled. “I want to say it was in Mrs. Morris’ class, my art teacher, where I discovered who Salvador Dalí was. I felt like I was stepping into his world.”

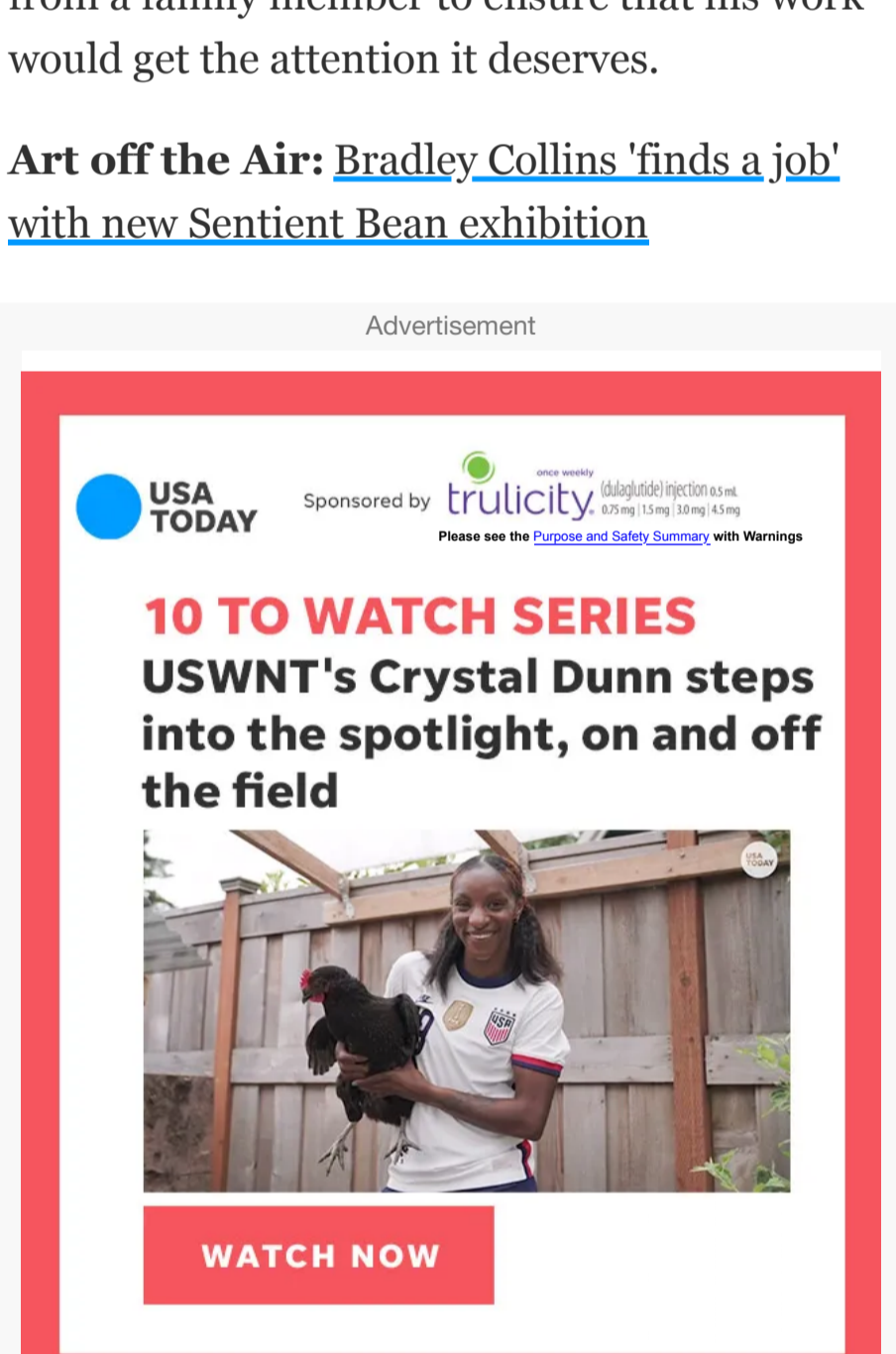


Britton Dockery Photo Provided

Dockery began to explore surrealism and hasn’t looked back, adding M.C. Escher to Dalí as the artists with the greatest influence on his choice to go down the path of the mind-bending style of art-making.

But it wasn’t until his early 20s that he decided to make a career of it. After a particularly difficult year in the artist’s life, Dockery looked inward and re-evaluated his priorities.

“I was just thinking about all the stuff I could have been doing,” he said. “I think I’m going to be serious.”



'Bowling Ball Pen Signature Ink' by Britton Dockery Courtesy Of The Artist

“My mom used to always ask me, ‘What do you want to do for a living?’” he added. “And I’d say, ‘Well, you know, I want to be an artist.’ Okay, well, what does that mean? And I never really could answer her. But if she’d ask now I’d tell her...I want to sell my work. I want to sell paintings and prints of my work. That’s exactly what I want to do.”

“ I would say these paintings are like real life daydreams...Daydreams on canvas, if you will.

BRITTON DOCKERY

Although ostensibly self-taught (Mrs. Morris’ high school tutelage aside), Dockery possesses skills equal to those who have graduated from Savannah’s numerous high quality art schools. But talent alone doesn’t equate to artistic success, and so the painter enlisted some help from a family member to ensure that his work would get the attention it deserves.

Art off the Air: [Bradley Collins 'finds a job' with new Sentient Bean exhibition](#)

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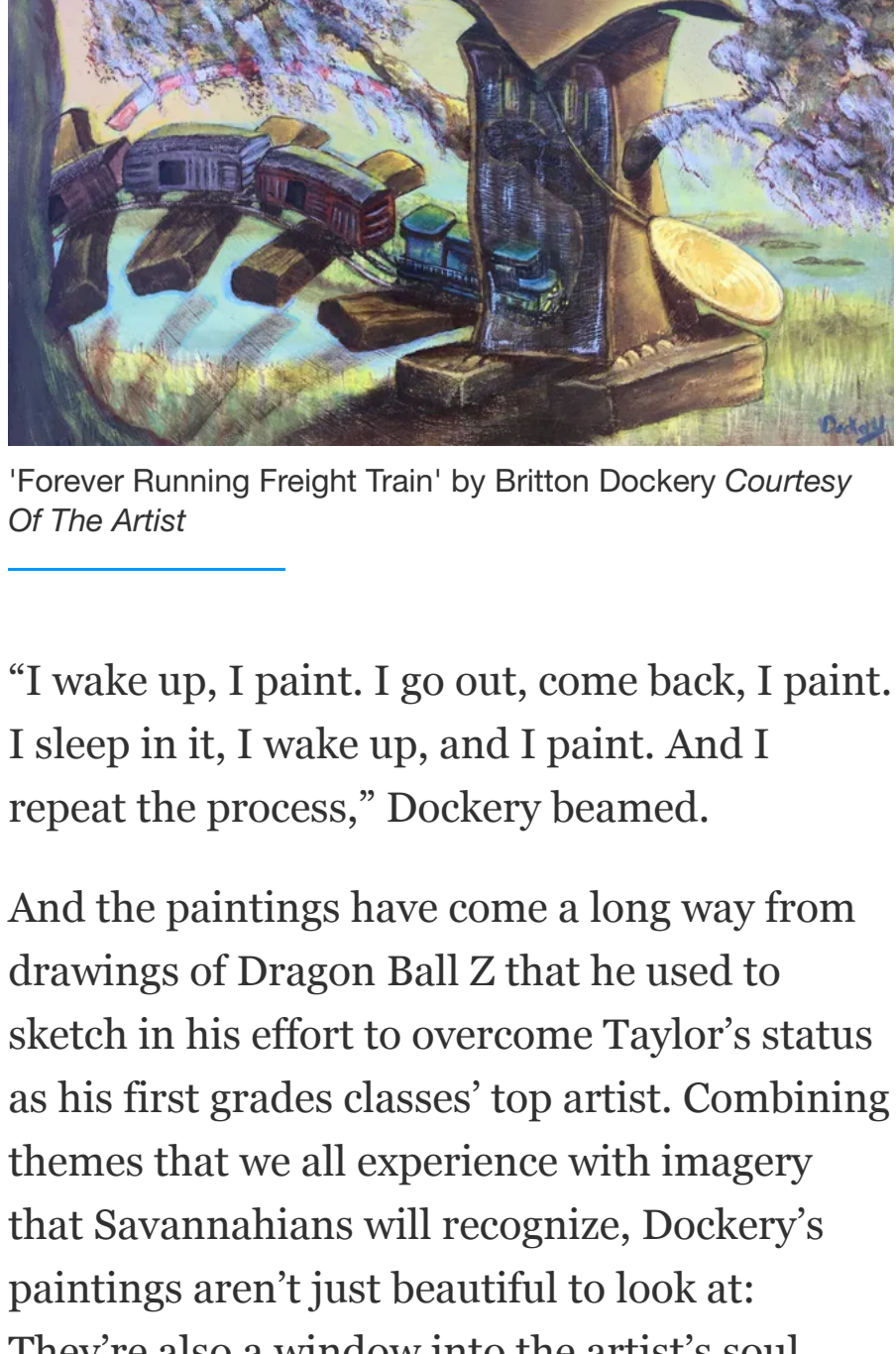
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“I had a cousin named Curtis, and he knows a good bit about marketing,” explained Dockery. “He trained me to create something that someone else can appreciate. Because you know you can paint whatever you want to paint, there’s nothing wrong with that. [But] at the end of the day, if you want someone to buy this, do you see [it] hanging on their wall?”



'Wooden pencil used for recording intangible ideas' by Britton Dockery Courtesy Of The Artist

Curtis would create challenges that would push Dockery to expand his artistic capabilities, like asking him to paint the cure for cancer, for example. And he forced the artist to consider things that went beyond putting a brush to canvas.

“One of the things my cousin would always ask me is, ‘Who are the people who are interested in your work?’,” Dockery related. “I mean, what kind of question is that? What do you mean, who’s interested in my work? I guess anybody who likes it!

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“But there’s actually a very specific answer to that. And I had no idea how to find that answer. But again, you know, marketing isn’t really my thing; it’s just something I’ve been reading on. Art is my thing.”

Art off the Air: [Calvin Woodum brings his visions of Savannah to life with a splash of colors, shapes](#)

That lead Dockery to hire a professional to take care of that side of things, managing his excellent website and making social media posts. The results speak for themselves: Although I knew of Dockery’s work previously, it was a Facebook ad created by his marketing group that lead me to reach out to him for this article.

“That’s why I decided to hire a professional,” noted the painter. “Because it’s like that would make my life a whole lot easier. I have no problem paying for those results.”

Contracting out the parts of his career which are admittedly outside of his skillset has also had another benefit: He has more time to make art.

'Forever Running Freight Train' by Britton Dockery Courtesy Of The Artist

“I wake up, I paint. I go out, come back, I paint. I sleep in it, I wake up, and I paint. And I repeat the process,” Dockery beamed.

And the paintings have come a long way from drawings of Dragon Ball Z that he used to sketch in his effort to overcome Taylor’s status as his first grades classes’ top artist. Combining themes that we all experience with imagery that Savannahians will recognize, Dockery’s paintings aren’t just beautiful to look at: They’re also a window into the artist’s soul.