



BOBBY SAYERS

ARTIST

"WE NEED TO DREAM AND IMAGINE BETTER FUTURES, FILL OUR LIVES WITH COLOUR, STORIES AND MOTION"

EDUCATION: MA FINE ART

LOCATION: HAVERING COLLEGE / NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY/ PIET ZWART INSTITUTE OF FINE ART

CURRENT POSITION: SELF EMPLOYED ARTIST

LOCATION: BETWEEN ROMFORD AND ROTTERDAM

Q Did your creative education help towards your current career?

A Yes definitely! It allowed me have diverse skills and be creative in the way I seek funding and produce the work I am passionate about.

Q Do you feel at an advantage for studying a creative subject?

A I feel Fine Art is a broad subject that overlaps with design, illustration, business, activism and philosophy, along with many others. Being self employed, from any field, now demands knowing how to brand, market yourself and articulate what you have to offer, studying in the creative field I feel in a better position than many to tackle these issues. Along with knowing how to self direct and manage my time, which can be a big challenge.

Q How did you find out about opportunities in your interested field?

A There are platforms such as Art Quest, Curator Space, Jobs.ac.uk and Art Council England. Also there are now many instagram accounts collating and sharing opportunities and open calls such as Working Class Database and Fully Funded Residencies.

But I have always found that when people get to know your work they will share the more relevant opportunities with you, meaning there is more chance of you being successful.

Q Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give to your younger self?

A You are an artist! Side jobs or I prefer to say 'second jobs', are great and nothing to be ashamed of. Who cares if they are creative, sometimes its best if they are not, save that for when you can work on your art. They provide mental and financial stability and everyone deserves that. Also we make the art world together, so make what feels right, experiment and you will find the opportunities and organisations that support you.

Q All career paths require self determination and hard work, how did you navigate this?

A I feel like I love to make things or realise my ideas, so I just had to find ways to keep doing that and funding what I loved. Also I love being surrounded by creatives as their passion and imagination is inspiring to me. So I would say that the roller coaster of working hard and then enjoying the creative process is worth it, even though it can be tough at points, especially if, or when you get a lot of rejections in a row.



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Q Why do you think creatives are important in society?

A Creatives, artists, thinkers, doers, weirdos, queers are so important because if every thing stayed the same there would be no progress, no entertainment and no one to help break viscous circles of societal behaviour. We need to dream and imagine better futures, fill our lives with colour, stories and motion. I mean I know I wouldn't have survived this pandemic without the films on Netflix, the music on my Spotify and the amazing artistic events I have been able to attend online.

Q What is the best thing about being a creative?

A I never truly felt like I belonged in Romford, being an artist and connecting with other experimental people has allowed me to experiment with who I could be, can be, should be and what I do and don't enjoy. I know myself better and I get to put on amazing events and create artworks that connect with other people. It feels like a huge privilege to bring something into the world, to start conversations, to entertain, to engage and inspire others.