



Arthur Samuel Wilbur Chantry II

DESIGNER'S FULL NAME: Arthur Samuel Wilbur Chantry II

DESIGNER'S PSEUDONYM/NICKNAME: Art Chantry

GENDER: Male

YEAR BORN: April 9, 1954

COUNTRY IN WHICH DESIGNER BORN: Seattle Washington--America

YEAR DIED: ---

COUNTRY IN WHICH DESIGNER DIED: ---

RACE | ETHNICITY | RELIGION | POLITICAL ALIGNMENT

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE AFFECTED EITHER THE ARTIST'S LIFE EXPERIENCE OR WORK BECAUSE IT/THEY PROVIDED A CHALLENGE AT THE TIME, PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Chantry grew up in a huge hub of America where music was prevalent. He ends up designing a lot of posters in his design career, so it could be said the 1990s music scene of Seattle influenced his path in life.¹

DID THIS DESIGNER DO NOTABLE WORK IN FIELDS OTHER THAN WHAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED GRAPHIC DESIGN TODAY? EXPLAIN.

Explain here and remove this explanation text. Things “other than what would be considered graphic design” for the sake of this timeline: Photography, Painting, Sculpture, Package Design, Printmaking, Printing, Architecture, Interior Design, Jewelry Design, Fashion, Papermaking, Bookbinding. (Any others, please check with Prof. Nikki.) Typeface design is part of graphic design, so do not include here. Please explain the typeface design in another answer. (No job titles like previous version of the questionnaire.)

LIST AT LEAST ONE OTHER WORK THAT IS NOT NAMED IN THIS TIMELINE FOR WHICH THIS DESIGNER IS WELL KNOWN. IF WORK CO-CREATED, LIST THE OTHERS INVOLVED.

Chantry created the poster for the musician “Boy George.”

EXPLAIN IF THIS FAME IS ONLY WITHIN DESIGN CIRCLES OR ANY OTHER SUBSET OF THE POPULATION.

Besides designers, Boy George fans and poster collectors would be familiar with this work.

DOES THIS WORK EXEMPLIFY ASPECTS EXPLAINED IN PREVIOUS QUESTIONS?

Like all of Art's work, it is very dark, heavy with ink, and made up of different techniques to get the final image.² All of these aspects of his work call back to postmodernism.

FOR WHAT IS THIS DESIGNER MOST NOTED? EXPLAIN.

Chantry is well known for making posters and CDs for popular bands such as Nirvana, The Flaming Lips, Soundgarden, and The Sonics.¹ He also created the iconic poster for The Night Gallery, which looked like a hardware ad. All of his designs are very dark with pops of color, clean typography, and a point of interest.²

IS THERE ANYTHING CONTROVERSIAL ABOUT THIS DESIGNER? EXPLAIN.

There is nothing outright controversial about Chantry. He does, however; refuse to give into the pressures of a computer-run

industry and he continues to create great designs by hand.

WHAT MATERIALS WERE MOST OFTEN USED BY THIS DESIGNER IN THE CREATION AND PRODUCTION OF WORK?

Chantry prefers to make all of his designs by hand. He claims it allows more freedom and versatility. He does not limit himself or the tools and materials he can create with. He uses whatever a certain design will require and even adds in some happy accidents along the way.²

EXPLAIN THIS DESIGNER'S EDUCATION/TRAINING, INCLUDING ACADEMIC, APPRENTICESHIPS, AND /OR MENTORSHIPS.

Chantry received a Bachelor's of Art degree with an emphasis on painting from Western Washington University in 1978.³

DID THIS DESIGNER PROMOTE A SPECIFIC IDEOLOGY IN HIS/HER WORK? EXPLAIN.

Chantry is a firm believer that computers are both good and evil. They are great because it makes design and communication more easily accessible. What he does not like about the computer and the internet is the fact that it takes away people's ability to interact. Chantry prefers a more hands-on approach to design, making his work stand out from the rest. He thinks it is very important to keep with the "roots" so to speak.²

WHY IS THIS DESIGNER VIEWED AS ICONIC IN THE HISTORY OF GRAPHIC DESIGN?

He was a prominent postmodern artist who was inspired by looks of grunge bands, both their look and sound. He tried to be a corporate designer and realized that is no life for him. He only wanted jobs that resonated with him which he thought would be relevant to mankind. He did not care about the money, he simply wanted to create what he enjoyed.³

IS THERE ANY OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW ABOUT THIS DESIGNER?

In 2017, Art Chantry was awarded the AIGA Metal. He is very humble-looking gentleman with a mouth like a sailor, but he wants his art to impact the world.³

YOUR NAME: Calley Dunnihoo

GIVE YOUR EDUCATED OPINION OF THIS DESIGNER AND HIS/HER WORK. ALSO EXPLAIN WHAT INFLUENCE, IF ANY, THIS WORK HAS HAD ON YOUR OWN. A LACK OF INFLUENCE MUST BE EXPLAINED.

Arthur Samuel Wilbur Chantry II, otherwise known as Art Chantry, began his career in the 1980s when he sparked up a relationship with The Rocket.¹ Chantry was regarded as a masterful, visual storyteller by the magazine during its decade long publication. After the collapse of the magazine, grunge hit the scene in the early 90s.² Chantry felt as if he had found his calling as a postmodernist designer with this rugged looking characters with their deep, sappy lyrics, and bad hair. He created amalgamations of various elements which were hard to look away from.³

Art Chantry is unlike many designers in this century. He does not care about the money, only takes jobs which interest him, and prefers to design everything by hand like they did in the old days before technology advanced. He wants his art to send a message above all else.³ He feels as if new improvements in design tools have caused a rift between design and client. Chantry claims there is a disconnect because people are not talking face to face. He wants his clients to be able to see and hear him talk about his concept and give feedback in person. Techniques have also changed the game of design. What once made for mistakes in printing, are now considered artful and machines can be programmed to create the effect no problem. Chantry; however, feels as if that takes away from the beauty of the craft. He has experimented tirelessly to figure out how to recreate these methods with his hands. It could easily be said Chantry does not want design and fine art to intertwine because so much of art now is computer generated, cheapening the creation process to him, but his designs emulate so much of what a computer is capable of. It feels as if Chantry wants his work to be tangible from start to finish.

Chantry should serve as an inspiration to all artists in some shape or form. He was not happy with commercialized graphic design and was able to take a step back to create work which actually brought him joy. Many artists take whatever jobs they can get in order to get money and have a consistent work flow, but doing that will wear them down. Chantry says it's okay to find your niche and stick with it, rather it be through tradition or digital. Chantry was also inspired by his surroundings which became increasingly more apparent. In Seattle, grunge was becoming popular. He took interest in the movement and allowed it to shape his work. He admired how experimental the sounds of the bands were, which led him to also experiment with the execution of the prints he made for them.

I had been told not all designers were slaves to the machine, but to read about a fairly current artist taking a different path to what is expected with the leaps in technology struck a huge cord with him. Chantry is truly unique in all of his efforts. Even his interpretation of postmodern work is one I can appreciate without going mad. He chooses a simple focal point and places it on saturated colors. The colors do not clash though and really draw attention to the piece for being so loud. The type for his pieces is also very clean, grid-ed sans serif. Chantry has created a type of organized chaos which I can only hope to emulate one day with iconic it looks.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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3. Lasky, Julie. "2017 AIGA Medalist Art Chantry." AIGA | the Professional Association for Design. Accessed April 04, 2018. <https://www.aiga.org/2017-aiga-medalist-art-chantry>.

