

# The Washington Post

## D.C. gallery shows from Martin Swift, Steven Cummings, BK Adams.I Am Art and others

By Mark Jenkins, Published: August 16

At a time when many musicians' publicity efforts begin and end with Facebook, gig posters might seem to be obsolete. But they're still produced, often with a care that suggests they're designed to be collector's items. Among the highlights of "Permanent Summer," the array of screen prints and illustrations at [Civilian Art Projects](#), are promo pieces for such indie-rock acts as Thee Oh Sees, Ty Segall and Mikal Cronin. Indeed, Michelle Cable, whose Panache Booking schedules such performers, is one of the show's curators. (The others are Rob Corradetti of Killer Acid, which markets posters, T-shirts and "other psychedelic ephemera," and Mike Zimmerman; both Corradetti and Zimmerman are also featured artists.)

Yet what links these colorful, irreverent pieces is not function but sensibility. Whether they're mass-produced and businesslike or one-of-a-kind and personal, the images draw from such playfully scary commercial-art traditions as sci-fi paperbacks, tough-guy fiction, '50s-horror and '60s-underground comics, acid- and punk-rock posters and record sleeves, and Japanese manga and anime. Many of the 30 artists or design firms represented here were influenced by David Sandlin, the pulp-happy illustrator who teaches at New York's School of Visual Arts. But the raw ingredients for their styles are widely available, from newsstands and used-book stores to billboards and fast-food eateries.

### **BK Adams.I Am Art**

1019 7th St. NW, Washington, DC 20004

A swing made from driftwood hangs near the entrance to Honfleur Gallery, where BK Adams.I Am Art — that's his full brand name — presents an intentionally motley array

Honfleur Gallery  
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of paintings, sculpture and mixed-media assemblages. Grass covers part of the floor, identifying the show, “Mynd Up,” as a playground. Adams’s work suggests Sam Gilliam’s draped canvases, Jackson Pollock’s spattered paintings and Robert Rauschenberg’s combines, but also the rule-free art created by children. The show includes a sculpture that piles house-paint cans atop a toy truck, and that swing piece is titled “Forever Young.”

Like Cummings, Adams has turned his face into an icon: a high-contrast image of himself in beard, beret and binocular-like goggles. The starkness of that self-portrait contrasts his crazy-quilt style, which incorporates found objects and random gestures, but also demonstrates considerable skill. Adams paints on pairs of jeans, and frames a painting with the pieces of a land-line telephone. He also constructs totem-like sculptures of iron, whose placement on grass makes “Mynd Up” resemble a sculpture garden. Despite its diversity, the selection holds together well. But these pieces might make even more sense outside, where they would fully be part of the urban fabric they reflect.

**BK Adams.I Am Art:**

**Mynd Up**

On view through Aug. 30 at Honfleur Gallery, 1241 Good Hope Rd. SE, 202-365-8392,  
[www.honfleurgallery.com](http://www.honfleurgallery.com)