

***“That’s right... I still don’t have a website.” Matthew Sontheimer, 2018***



Matthew Sontheimer’s maze-like drawings and photographs explore how we access, process, adapt to, ignore, and otherwise live with information. Text-centric compositions follow the artist’s internal dialogue, presented as an ongoing conversation between two fictional characters. Expressing the sometimes discordant speeds of thinking and making, Sontheimer’s works are filled with revisions, sidebars, and tangents that provide a wry running commentary about his own process.

*“...make it in such an overwrought and tedious manner...”*

## ***Meet the Artist!***



Born in 1969 in New Orleans, Matthew Sontheimer received a B.F.A. from Stephen F. Austin State University and an M.F.A. from Montana State University, Bozeman. He has had solo gallery exhibitions and exhibited in group shows across the country. His work is represented by the Talley Dunn Gallery in Dallas, Texas, and can be found in the permanent collection at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, the New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York. He is currently an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

## ***An Artistic Method***

Matthew Sontheimer explores the process of creating in his artwork. This activity invites you to try a process of creating art.

<https://www.u-ca.org/exhibition/thats-right-i-still-dont-have-a-website>

### ***The Steps:***

#### **Brainstorm**

Generating several ideas for the finished work

#### **Thumbnail**

Quickly drawing several different ways to execute one idea

#### **Practice**

Experiment with your media to find techniques that work well

#### **Plan**

Decide on the details of your finished work, the colors, the size, the techniques, etc.

#### **Execute**

Combine the results of your last 3 steps to create a finished work of art.



Sometimes art is created effortlessly. You sit down, draw something, perhaps color it in, and then it's ready to display. But sometimes art is created through laborious processes. Each artist has their own unique process of creating art. This could include making several different tries of the same thing, making lots of practice sketches, playing with different colors and textures, etc. In this activity, there is outlined a 5 step process inspired by the scientific method, to creating a finished work of art. This activity invites you to try creating - perhaps a little differently than you're used to - and reflecting on the process.

1. Gather your favorite art making materials.
2. Begin following the steps listed at the left.
3. Reflect on your finished work. How did you feel about working this way? Was it easier or harder than your usual methods? Do you think you'd try working this way again?