

Classic Posters Interview with Leia Bell by Michael Erlewine

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Michael Erlewine: When and how did you get interested in art?

Leia Bell: I have been consumed by art since I was a small child. Around 8 years old I would do stacks of drawings and take them around my neighborhood selling them for a quarter each. I had a great art teacher in middle school who turned me on to screen and relief printing and I have been hooked ever since.

In high school I started doing flyers for shows. They were all photocopies, but I would layer different colors of toner on the flyers so they would stand out on the telephone poles.

Michael Erlewine: What kind of art influenced you?

Leia Bell: I have always been a huge fan of "post-impressionism"-- mainly drawings and posters by Toulouse-Lautrec, the paintings of Cezanne, and the etchings of Mary Cassatt.

Michael Erlewine: What concert-posters artists influenced you?

Leia Bell: Toulouse-Lautrec as far as history goes.

Michael Erlewine: What was your first concert-music poster?

Leia Bell: My first hand-screen-printed concert poster was for Mates of State (August 24, 2001)

Michael Erlewine: What are some of the main venues you have done posters for?

Leia Bell: Kilby Court-- Salt Lake City, Utah, Troubadour-- Los Angeles

Michael Erlewine: What are some of the main bands you have done posters for?

Leia Bell: Mates of State, Carissa's Weird, Cursive, Denali, Pedro the Lion.

Michael Erlewine: What are some of the media/formats you work in:

Leia Bell: All of my posters are screen printed using latex house paints. They are mainly small, handbill size. The more recent ones are larger, but no larger than 12x17 inches.

Michael Erlewine: What other poster artists have you collaborated with?

Leia Bell: None yet, but I would love to. There is a poster for the magazine Punk Planet that Jay Ryan / The Bird Machine, Nick Butcher and myself are all designing different versions of coming out soon. I am really looking forward to that.

Michael Erlewine: Who are some your favorite current poster artists?

Leia Bell: Jeff Kleinsmith, Serigraphie Populaire, Dan McCarthy, Brian Ewing.

Michael Erlewine: What are your favorite bands?

Leia Bell: I am fortunate enough to live at the music venue that I design posters for (kilby Court). We hold many indie rock shows there every month, so I am completely submerged in new music all the time. I respect and enjoy all these new bands... but especially Denali, Cursive, I am the World Trade Center, the Shins, and Carissa's Weird.

Michael Erlewine: Done any shows of your work?

Leia Bell: Flatstock 2 in Austin, Texas March 14 and 15 2003, 2002 Winter Olympics in SLC, Utah.