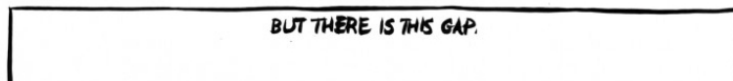
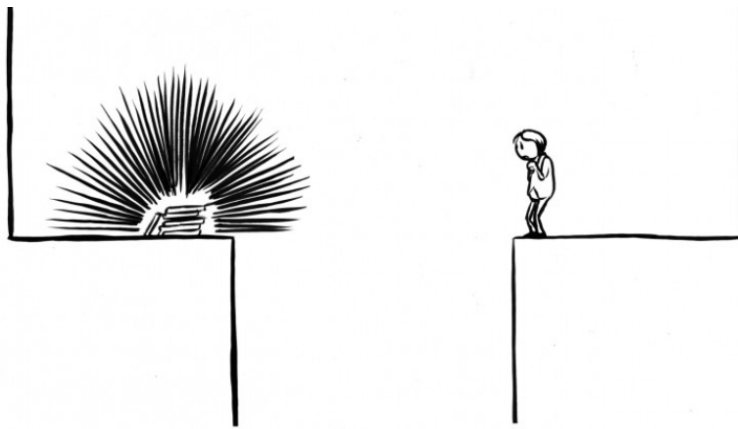


UNDERDOGS
TASTE VS. ABILITY
January 1, 2014 – Made by Mark Luetke





FOR THE FIRST COUPLE YEARS YOU MAKE STUFF,



IT'S JUST NOT THAT GOOD



IT'S TRYING TO BE GOOD,

IT HAS POTENTIAL,

BUT IT'S NOT,

BUT YOUR TASTE,
THE THING THAT GOT YOU INTO THE GAME,





IS STILL KILLER.



AND YOUR TASTE
IS WHY YOUR WORK
DISAPPOINTS YOU.



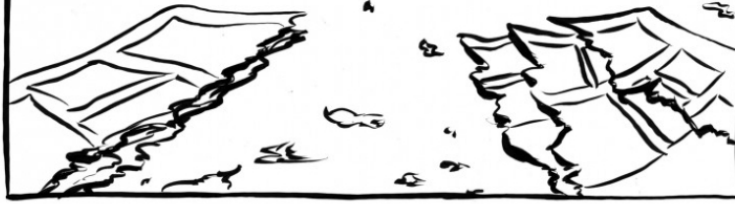
A LOT OF PEOPLE NEVER
GET PAST THIS PHASE.

THEY QUIT.

MOST PEOPLE I KNOW WHO DO INTERESTING, CREATIVE WORK
WENT THROUGH YEARS OF THIS.



WE KNOW OUR WORK DOESN'T HAVE THIS SPECIAL THING
THAT WE WANT IT TO HAVE.



WE ALL GO THROUGH THIS.

AND IF YOU ARE JUST STARTING OUT OR YOU ARE STILL IN THIS PHASE,



YOU GOTTA KNOW IT'S NORMAL.



AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO IS DO A LOT OF WORK.



PUT YOURSELF ON A DEADLINE SO THAT EVERY WEEK OR MONTH
YOU WILL FINISH ONE STORY.





IT'S ONLY THROUGH GOING THROUGH A VOLUME OF WORK
THAT YOU WILL CLOSE THAT GAP.



AND YOUR WORK WILL BE AS GOOD AS YOUR AMBITIONS.



YOU'VE JUST GOTTA FIGHT YOUR WAY THROUGH.



- IRA GLASS

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UNDERDOGS

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21 Responses to "Taste Vs. Ability"



John

January 1st, 2014

This is so true. You totally nailed it, Mark.

Reply



luetkemj

January 2nd, 2014

Thanks John, but really it was Ira who nailed this one. I just threw some visuals on it.

Reply



Jakob Nelson

January 2nd, 2014

I don't think I've ever heard/read this quote before, but I read it in Mr. Glass's voice anyway. When I got to the bottom, i realized why. Well illustrated! I'm going to have to share this!

Reply



Arnie

January 4th, 2014

Most definitely. I've learned even when time an life don't work out the way you want, just keep fighting through it. The other biggest obstacle I had to overcome was to stop wishing I had Jim Lee's career.

Reply



beni9n

January 4th, 2014

Thank you.

Reply



GaBe

January 4th, 2014

Some wonderful food for thought. Thank you so much!

Reply



Tu-Kwon Thomas

January 4th, 2014

Very encouraging.

Reply



Paul-Thomas Parnell

January 7th, 2014

This is really true I've been drawing for 20 years and I still learn things every day to improve as an artist.

Reply



Arken

January 20th, 2014

Really important message (and a cool Character of Ira!) especially love the image of the pages building the bridge, such a decent shorthand for the process itself. Fantastic stuff.

Reply



Joey B

February 28th, 2014

I agree, the visual of the paper bridge hit home for me. It's the perfect way to illustrate it.

Reply



Jonatan Lemos Z

March 19th, 2014

Gavin Aung Than's Zen Pencils version is killer too:
<http://zenpencils.com/comic/90-ira-glass-advice-for-beginners>

Reply



Cliff Crawford

March 11th, 2016

Rhoda Kellog Art educationalists wrote about the idea of a crisis of confidence. A point in our development when our ability to criticise our drawing develops faster than our drawing skill, often triggering a crisis of confidence; it is at this point that many people stop drawing. The way to deal with this is to keep drawing, the advice interestingly and visually given above.

Reply



Sam Andaluz

March 13th, 2016

I love it. Thank you.

Reply



Patricia

March 23rd, 2016

Excellent! Thanks for doing things like this!

Reply



Juliana Oliveira

July 13th, 2016

That definitely helped! Thanks a lot! I love the art! 😊

Reply



Maria

November 14th, 2016

This is so true and inspiring. THANK YOU

Reply



Luísa González

May 2nd, 2017

thanks for your comic i really get happy and with a lot of energy to start my project and the most difficult... to stay on it...

Reply



Giwan

March 28th, 2018

It is true and it will take a while but honestly it is amazing drawings and it is so clear to understand it. thank you

Reply

The Weekend Reader - March 14th (Still Lazy After All These Days) | The 12 Percent

The Weekend Reader - March 17th (Sun Lazy After All these Days) | The 12 Percent March 16th, 2014

[...] Class reading probably included the best thing I read all week: Taste versus Ability [...]

[Reply](#)

My Man Loomis: How I've Been Slowly Learning How To Draw | Color The Books Blog August 11th, 2015

[...] I had just wasn't happening. It wasn't until my buddy, Mark Luetke, turned me on to an Ira Glass quote. In it, Glass speaks about Taste versus Ability and that, because our taste is so refined, what [...]

[Reply](#)

When Vision and Ability Collide - Alex Schuler June 19th, 2016

[...] I'm currently taking a course centered around making a comic (more on that next week), and one of the outside sources linked that most spoke to me was this comic on taste vs ability. [...]

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