



rubén trudeau

Rubén Trudeau, born in Winnipeg in 1983, sees himself as a new kind of stand-up monologist who also draws portraits, all “to foster a conversation.” His career goal is to pioneer a form of stand-up that’s not pure comedy and is much more interactive and immersive than mere monologue. Says Rubén, “I aim to be the least well-known person ever to host SNL.” For now, he frequents open mikes at bars but gets more appreciation at ‘artsier’ locations. This challenging métier helps him laugh at himself, while initiating serious conversations with others about society. It also helps him – as an introvert – to “get social.”

When he draws portraits and somewhat cartoony caricatures, the goal is the same. “They talk and I draw,” he says. “Some of their personality comes out, perhaps more than they intend. The drawing itself only takes about 15 minutes, and it’s as much about the conversation as the product, which I give to the subject or keep for myself.” Rubén’s medium is pen and India ink or ball pen on whatever paper comes to hand. He admires the pen-and-ink drawings of Winnipeg/New York artist Marcel Dzama, and is conditioned by comics and cartoons like Ren & Stimpy and Ninja Turtles, “but I’m not super-influenced by any one style.” Rubén adds, “Laughter, approval, and dialogue are related. So, with my drawing, as with my stand-up, people get something out of it even if they don’t laugh.”