

**Boey. His canvas ... is a non-degradable disposable coffee cup?
And his paintbrush ... is a Sharpie pen?**

Yes, Cheeming Boey of Newport Beach, California is a polystyrene foam cup artist ... his medium will last for about 500 years according to environmentalists. Boey's perspective, "My Sharpie says it's permanent ink. These things are going to last generations. It's archival material."

Boey moved from Malaysia to San Francisco to study computer game design and is now a 3-D video game animator. New in town in Orange County in 2006 and bored in a coffee shop, Boey sat down to watch people ... and doodle. Without any paper to draw on, he grabbed a trashed 'Styrofoam' cup to use. "I knew I was onto something. It was beautiful."



Thus began a proliferation of intricate cup art on his shelf at work. And people *oohed* and *ahhed*, so he got serious. Boey experimented with pointillism and finer lines. He studied Japanese woodcut artist Katsushika Hokusai's use of perspective. His work grew playful and frequently documentary.

One day he packed up several cups and took them to Laguna Beach where he ended up at Marion Meyer Contemporary Art. Meyer was hooked, "When I connect to the energy and passion someone creates in their art, that's when I like it." She invited Boey to display his cups at the monthly art walk. Boey continued to attract larger crowds and had more sales.

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While Boey's cup art started as a whimsical hobby, his masterpieces have become an increasingly serious business – each can take anywhere between hours and months to complete, covering a wide range of styles. "What is on a cup is the first and final pass," Boey states. "I don't draft ideas out on them. Any my next stroke could be the one that ruins everything."



As seen in The Orange County Register, "Coffee cup as canvas" by Tom Berg, June 10, 2009 and Orange Coast magazine's Artist Spotlight, "Café Artiste," by Anastacia Grenda, September 2009.