

Jeff Around Town – April 15th

Jeff: Time for Jeff Around Town. I'm here in Council Bluffs with Annie Bruckenhemke. Annie, thanks for being here.

Annie: Thank you. Good to be here.

Jeff: And you are part of this, little collective that you've formed with a couple of other artists. You wanna just explain what this is?

Annie: Sure, sure.

Jeff: It's coffee with creatives.

Annie: Little collective is a good term for it. So, myself and Buck Christiansen and Dustin Letts decided many months back... I guess it was over the summer... that we wanted to combine forces and... and have a space together to do... we weren't quite sure what.

Jeff: Uh-huh.

Annie: So, it's a gallery of sorts, but it's also, just a multipurpose kind of a space. It's an open floor plan in here. So currently, we have works from all three of us on the walls, and we've had a few events so far. But ongoing, we get together on Saturday mornings and have coffee with creatives.

Jeff: For anyone who is a creative.

Annie: Anyone. Absolutely. We just have a regular meeting time... That we let people know they can come, they can chat, they can have coffee. And even... even if they're not artists, they can come if they just wanna hang out with artists.

Jeff: That's cool.

Annie: For sure, there's gonna be artists here.

Jeff: We're in a building that's sort of adjacent to the harvester lofts.

Annie: Our address here in Bad Goods is 1010 South Main.

Jeff: Yeah. So Bad Goods.

Annie: Bad Goods. Yeah. Buck Annie Dustin.

Jeff: Oh, I gotcha. I gotcha. And you are an art teacher and a painter.

Annie: I am.

Jeff: And, you do all sorts of different kinds of arts?

Annie: I do. You know, my... my art teaching is something that is fairly new. I mean, I've always been an artist since I was a little kid, and have had an art career as an adult doing painting, drawing, and also I make ceramic work now. But, my art teaching... it just sort of happened out of my part time job, which is... I'm a substitute teacher as a part time job. That then kind of developed into doing workshops and art camps, and I'm also the guest artist or visiting artist out at Montclair Elementary, which is in the Miller District. So, I do that once a month for a week, and oh my gosh, I love that job. The way that you work with kids and the materials you use kind of affects the way that you work with your own materials.

Jeff: I was just gonna ask you how your teaching has informed or changed your... your work. It sounds like it has.

Annie: Yeah. Really, for me, it has kind of opened me up to be a little less serious about what I'm doing, a little less pressure. When I embark on a painting or a drawing. It gives me kind of, you know, when you work with kids, they don't have those sorts of speed bumps or obstacles. They just wanna get their hands on the materials and make an image.

Jeff: They just dive in.

Annie: They just dive in, and you wanna definitely foster that for them. So, practicing what I'm preaching.

Jeff: Do you... do you find that you've been more forgiving of yourself? Are you... do you generally tend to be of hard on yourself as an artist or were you? And are you more forgiving of...of yourself?

Annie: Yes. That little bit of, self... self loathing, has been part of my art existence, and, it has helped me to do less of that. I still am a bit of a... I'm a bit of a.... I hate to just say I'm a bit of a perfectionist, but I guess I have high standards for my outcomes. And, I've learned to sort of embrace that in a way and to, to not apologize for it, but to really dive into that part of myself and my creative process and go, I'm just gonna work through this kind of

energy that I have, and it's not done until I say it's done. Gosh darn it. And if that means I'm gonna be fussy and have high standards, that's okay too.

Jeff: For anyone who is holding off on jumping into their creative work, whatever it is, and they've something they dream about doing, but they haven't done it. Any... any advice?

Annie: You don't have to create a masterpiece.

Jeff: Yeah.

Annie: You just go; I'm doing this.

Jeff: Yeah.

Annie: And you go with it, and you see where it takes you. Always showing up to do the work.

Jeff: Showing up. Yep.

Annie: Is the work.

Jeff: Love it.

Annie: And it leads you somewhere. It always points you in a direction, and that's just that's a... a great place to ...to be and to remind yourself of even if you've been doing it for a while.

Jeff: Annie, thanks... thanks so much. BAD, so folks can find you at Bad Goods?

Annie: Yeah.

Jeff: On Facebook?

Annie: Come to yeah. We're on Facebook at, we have a page, Bad Goods, on Facebook. So yeah.

Jeff: Coffee with Creatives.

Annie: Coffee with Creatives on Saturday morning.

Jeff: Annie, thanks for joining me on Jeff Around Town.

Annie: Yeah. You're welcome. Thanks for having me.

