

Ricardo Cortes

“Ricardo Cortés is an artist, writer, #1 *New York Times* best-selling illustrator, and sometimes a publisher.”

From - <http://www.rmccortes.com/about/>

Cortes illustrates, writes and produces provocative books. He illustrates adult themes as children’s books i.e. makes picture books for adults. He also deals with adult themes for young people.

Go the Fuck to Sleep (Adam Mansbach and Ricardo Cortes) is an adult book in the form of a classic children’s picture book. Cute images are married together with the adult theme of parents getting frustrated with their child who won’t sleep. The book deals with this vaguely taboo subject directly and with humour. The book went viral on the Internet and had to be released before it was scheduled. My Mum bought it for my daughter when she had her baby! The images are created using a combination of photos, paintings and drawings.



Go the Fuck to Sleep. Adam Mansbach and Ricardo Cortes. 2011. Akashic Books; First Edition Edition (1 July 2011)

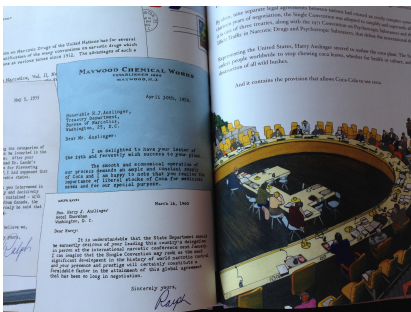
Cortes has recorded several explanatory videos about his work. From these videos it is clear that he has passions and beliefs and is prepared to put effort in, research, speak out and produce books to state his case. He picks up themes that interest him and topics that he questions - i.e. laws on drugs being related to culture and social issues rather than science and logic. He is, 'Captivated by the transformations' (tobacco from a good thing to a bad thing). Acting as an investigative journalist Cortes does lots and lots of research. He talks about "Boxes and boxes and boxes of correspondence which I have distilled down in to a book"

Controversy and success has led him to more controversy and success.

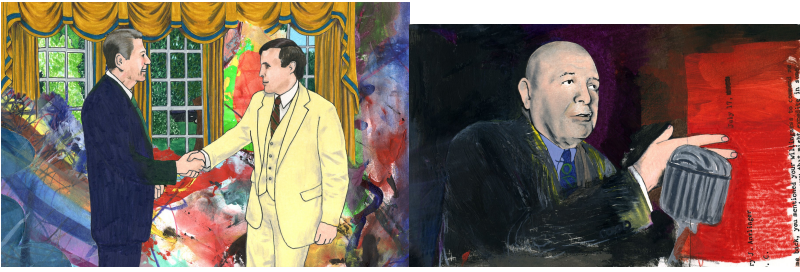
In these videos he touches on how he produces his images - i.e. taking photos which he then produces pictures from. He talks about evidence in his books including photocopies of documents, which he then draws by hand. He uses pen, pencil and pencil crayon.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ra3NRdGtPR4&index=12&list=UULCyOdJ6WBkL5L6GQjIGPOA>

The photograph below of pages from A Secret History of Coffee, Coca & Cola show how he drew photocopied documents and used photos to create images.



The following illustrations are taken from his free pdf "Sketches of the Drug Czars An Absurd Illustrated History"



His self portrait (right), published on Wikipedia is also a line drawing from a photograph (left).

Interview with Ricardo Cortes

<http://www.mommyish.com/2011/06/15/interview-with-adam-mansbach-and-ricardo-cortes-author-and-illustrator-of-go-the-fck-to-sleep/>

Personally, I love the way he sees the big picture, compares and contrasts and questions things that usually are not questioned. Cortes inspires me. I admire people who think big, generate opinions and are brave enough to voice them. I also admire his illustrations.

However, his books can be hard to read, the paragraphs are overly long, the text jumps about a lot and can be rather dry. Possibly a better illustrator than writer!

The following images have been created (loosely in the style of Cortes) on my iPad using photographs, and the apps,

'Brushes', 'Pic Collage', and 'Adobe Photoshop Mix'. I also chose a topic I feel strongly about.

The first image was created from a photograph of a view from the back of our house, the colour manipulated in iPhoto, imported to Brushes and then painted over.



The second image was from a photograph of litter picked up from down the lane, the colour manipulated in iPhoto, imported to Brushes and painted over, imported to Photoshop Mix and the background deleted.



The two were then paired in a series of documents using Photoshop Mix, some of which are show below.



And Pic Collage



And finally separated out again in an image created with Pic Collage.



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References

<http://www.rmccortes.com/about/>

Go the Fuck to Sleep. Adam Mansbach and Ricardo Cortes. 2011. Akashic Books; New York. First Edition

A Secret History of Coffee, Coca & Cola. Ricardo Cortes. 2012. Akashic Books; New York.

“Sketches of the Drug Czars An Absurd Illustrated History” - free pdf
<https://medium.com/culture-club/sketches-of-the-drug-czars-fa25f21a462e>

Interview with Ricardo Cortes by Koa Beck

<http://www.mommyish.com/2011/06/15/interview-with-adam-mansbach-and-ricardo-cortes-author-and-illustrator-of-go-the-fck-to-sleep/>