

## Samuele Bastianello: Please Complete the Following Sentences

These 200 illustrations explore the themes of identity and meaning by attempting to translate into image and text how cultural conditioning and human limitations play a role in creative acts.

The artwork provides the public with both transparency and mystification. It aims at casting light upon the unconscious dazzlement caused by a fractured, worldwide-connected, media-saturated hypercapitalism. It invites the question as to what lies beyond the strong idea we hold of possessing a 'unique self'. By means of incomplete representation, it forces the recipient to engage actively, in the same way a sentence ending abruptly makes our brain involuntarily try to complete it.

By exposing the movements behind the modus operandi of some established creative approaches, the drawings attempt to challenge an understanding of art as something separate from everyday life possessing transcendental qualities.

The style employed taps into both the joy and instinctiveness of children art, and the painstaking complexity that tends to ensue in the work of more seasoned practitioners. The two make for an uncanny alchemy that invites the viewer to reconsider a self-centred, authorship-driven understanding of what creativity means, and questions the reasons and forms of expression behind our urge to make and assert.

In these works, language is the means by which the solidification of any definite thesis is sabotaged. This is part of an attempt to expose the structural inconsistencies at the base of deeply ingrained thought patterns, and the remarkable tendency of the mind to reductionism and habit-making. The artworks act as a paradoxical space, whose features (and absence thereof) try to facilitate a playful – yet caustic – contemplation, offering pointers that suggest the possibility of a fundamental change in our way of being.