

Interviews – News – Events (INE) © 2018

Welcome all.

INE: Today I'm very lucky to interview Toom Bucksaw, editor of Soft Cartel, an online publication.

INE: Hi Toom, thank you for agreeing to this interview.

INE: On Duotrope®, Soft Cartel is described as a collective of writers who like seeing forward movement, experimentation, and just plain fun [writing.] Tell us more about yourself and the team behind Soft Cartel.

TB: My co-editor and myself are both writers, he from Australia and I from South Carolina.

INE: Do the members of Soft Cartel have any publications?

TB: All of my work is listed on toombucksaw.tumblr.com, and my co-editor Based Mountain has recently been published on Apocalips (apocalips.online/poetry – i love my cat but she better not kill me) and in the past on Soft Cartel. He is currently working on a novel about waking up one day and finding that you have become a dungeon.

INE: Tell us why you started Soft Cartel.

TB: Soft Cartel was created to help fill the void that the hiatus of fluland left, which is to say when fluland went on hiatus it seemed a seriously solid source of fun and adventurous spirit had disappeared, leaving only more boring, more uptight, and more stuffy sites. Soft Cartel is a place with a non-existent barrier to entry, no pretensions and absolutely no gimmicks. Just a no-nonsense vertical feed of great work.

INE: How often do you publish?

TB: We generally publish two things every day at times of high volume, which we've been in for the past few months and will be for the currently foreseeable future.

INE: Do you accept submissions? If so, do the submissions follow a theme, or is Soft Cartel open to pretty much any form of writing, poetry, story, and genre?

TB: Soft Cartel reads and looks at everything that comes into the inbox. We just ask that writing be short enough to realistically be read in a single sitting. Other than that, there are absolutely no limitations. We even offer a "residency" feature for artists who want to send us a large amount of work, so that even they can be accommodated. Getting work in front of eyes is the most important thing.

INE: What writing would you like to see more of in the submissions you do receive?

TB: We don't get enough horror or prose poetry.

INE: Do you have any advice for authors on what to do before they submit their writing to Soft Cartel?

TB: Proofread. Sending typo-riddled writing is like juggling deflated beach balls.

INE: What are the top three tidbits you can offer authors if they want to be selected for your BEST OF THE MONTH pick?

TB: The best of the month picks are the ones that jumped out of the slush pile and at my face, got in my hair and stung my eyes. I had to tip my head and bang on it because they plugged up my ears and wouldn't come out. There are no three tips, no checkboxes or criteria. It's the art with the strongest and indelible voice. The most implacable genie captured in the most mesmerizing bottle.

INE: What is your favorite quote?

TB: "Blue, blue, electric blue

That's the color of my room

Where I will live

Blue, blue"

- david bowie

INE: How can readers discover more about Soft Cartel?

TB: Website: softcartel.com

Twitter: @softcartel

INE: Thank you very much for taking the time out of your busy schedule to take part in this interview. Best of luck and much success for the future.

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