

Adam J. Kurtz

"ADAM J. KURTZ WANTS
YOU TO FEEL BETTER.
ABOUT YOURSELF. ABOUT
THE WORLD. ABOUT THE
CREATIVE PROCESS,"
-ADWEEK

Lecture & Event Info

About

Adam J. Kurtz (aka @adamjk) is an international-bestselling artist and author whose illustrative work is rooted in honesty, humor and a little darkness. His books, including *1 Page at a Time*, have been translated into over a dozen languages and his work has been featured in the *New Yorker*, *VICE*, *Adweek* and more.

Kurtz's narrative voice is often a reaction to internet culture, exploring the evolving role of design and language in their modern context, where text and image "memes" rule conversation and have changed the nature of communication itself. It's no surprise then that he's amassed a considerable online audience of young—and young-at-heart—creatives.

SELECT PRESS

Adweek, VICE, Artsy, NYLON, Forbes, HOW, Bustle

SELECT AWARDS

PRINT Magazine's New Visual Artists
Brooklyn Magazine's 30 Under 30
HOW 100: Most Influential Designers
Webby Awards Nominee



Lecture Topics & Goals

LECTURE TITLE

*Things Are What You Make of Them:
Life Advice for Creatives*

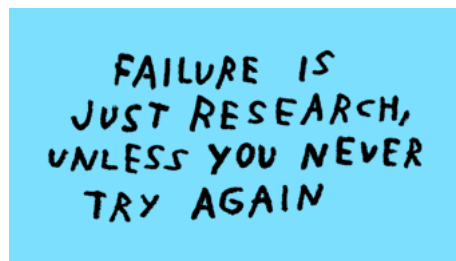
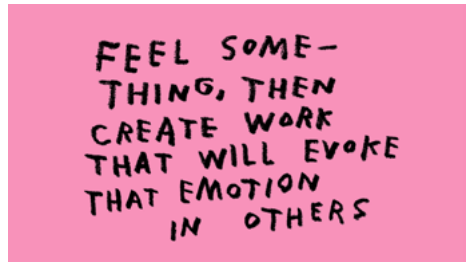
APPROXIMATE LENGTH

45-50 minutes, optional Q&A

LECTURE SYNOPSIS

We all have tools and skills, so who you are and what you do with them is the difference. Join artist and author Adam J. Kurtz as he mines his creative career for anecdotes and humor, encouraging all of us to do what we can with whatever we've got.

For audiences of all kinds (“non-creatives” welcome!) this fun and fast-paced talk assumes you know *how* to do what you do and aims instead to remind you *why* you do it in the first place. Part “if I can do this anyone can” and part “yelling about our endless potential,” this presentation aims to inspire each of us to address the core of who we are as individuals as we strive to create work that can help ourselves and connect with others.



Previous Speaking Experience

TESTIMONIALS

“Adam completely embodies the spirit of his work, and brought incredible energy and authenticity to our conference’s main stage.”

–**Andrea Rosen, Director, Adobe 99U Conference**

“Adam’s genius may be inciting others to do more creative work, while giving fewer F’s about the critics, real and imaginary. His brand of unpolished expressiveness and irreverence is the antidote to the curated fakery of our modern internet-mediated lives.”

–**Joscelin Cooper, Google**

“One of the most fun, inspiring and genuine talks we’ve had on the main stage. Adam’s ability to captivate an audience and bring it all home makes me wish we saved him for last.”

–**Josh Horton, Creative Works Conference**

“Adam immediately won over the audience with his charm, philosophy and approach to the process of making.”

–**Yvonne Perez Emerson, WeMake**



AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

- ★ Highest-rated speaker at 99U Conference 2018
- ★ “People’s Choice Best Talk” at TDC Brisbane 2019

SELECT SPEAKING HISTORY

Adam has spoken to creative audiences at dozens of conferences, universities, and organizations including: [Adobe 99U Conference](#), Adobe MAX, AGDA Australian Tour, Creative Mornings, Creative Works, DC Design Week, Etsy, Facebook, Google, Graphika Manila, [HOW Design Live](#), ICA/Boston, Maryland Institute College of Art, MassArt, NGV Melbourne, NYC Pride Conference, OCADU, OFFF Barcelona, OFFF Mexico City, Rhode Island School of Design, The Design Conference (TDC), Twitter, URBAN, Vans Artist Tour, VF Corp

Things Are What You Make of Them

Insights and inspiration for anyone who makes art (or anything else) from someone who's been there. Over thirteen chapters, this full-color, handwritten book tackles experiences relatable to any creative, from common fears to figuring out what “success” actually means. Relatable topics are handled with humor, compassion, and a healthy dose of reality. The tone is both instructive and inclusive because no matter our age, career goals or discipline, we're all still figuring “things” out as we go.

REVIEWS

“This brilliant, life-affirming book is chock full of audacious advice to help creative people make sense of rejection, failure, false starts, fame, happiness and collaborations.”

–Debbie Millman, host of *Design Matters*

EVENT BOOK SALES OR GIFTING

Contact your Penguin Random House account rep or visit 800ceoread.com for volume discounts.



Booking Information

"MASTER OF THE PLAYFUL, LIGHTWEIGHT
MOOD BOOSTER." — BUZZFEED

"BLURRING THE LINE BETWEEN
ARTIST & THERAPIST." — VICE

CONTACT

victoria@authenticm.com

AVAILABILITY

Ongoing as schedule permits

SPEAKING RATES

Flexible based on institutional
budget and existing travel plans

MINIMUM BOOK BUY

No minimum necessary, though purchase quantity
can be taken into consideration with speaking rate

MORE INFORMATION

- adamjkurtz.com
- [instagram.com/adamjk](https://www.instagram.com/adamjk)
- [penguinrandomhouse.com/
authors/227146/adam-j-kurtz](https://penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/227146/adam-j-kurtz)

