

ARTIST INTERVIEW



NEW ART TECHNIQUES



COLORING BOOK UPDATE



NEXT GOALS

MEET MARLI

This quarter I had the privilege to interview an amazing artist, Marli. Marli is a Freelance Graphic Designer and has a Masters in Art. She also has a knack for photography and storytelling through her photos and short videos. She truly is not only an amazing artist, but a person who is true to herself and wants art to be a method to impact the world around her. Makes me proud to call her my cousin.

Art for Marli is a form of expression to understand the world around us, not necessarily through beauty, but through sentiment and emotion. When we experience the world through our senses and emotions, we are able to understand the world at a more deeper level. She takes inspiration from artists such as Remedios Varo, Gustav Klimt, Leonora Carrington, as well as French illustrators Rebecca Dautremer and Benjamin Lacombe. She admires how each artist is unique, inviting the viewer to an emotional experience with their own style.



Above is Marli's gallery for "What Does Love Taste Like?" Below is one of her many photographs of couches.

In her galleries, she is able to portray the world as she and others see it. Once, she won a scholarship with a project named, "What Does Love Taste Like?" She asked random people this question, and then she photograph items that depict their answers. In her everyday life, she also takes note of couches left on the street. She enjoys taking pictures of these and their surroundings to show how each couch has a story to tell, inviting the viewer to imagine the possibilities.





In her embroidering, she uses different textures and messages to create a scene that leaves the viewer to their own interpretation and emotion. This one to the left is one my favorite pieces. Not only is it beautiful, but the image portrays the weight of the responsibilities that many women carry. What emotion did you have?

Her favorite projects are when she creates small scenes with miniature white rabbits and then lets the audience fill in the rest. In these scenes, she explores different textures, such as soft and hard, dark and light, rough and smooth, and more. In the future, she would like to publish a children's book with these scenes.

One of the characteristics that I admire much about my cousin, is her honesty for her art. Although social media has now created a form of instant, ever changing art, she creates art that has her unique voice. She does not create for what is popular or the newest hype on social media, even though it is much demanded and sometimes encouraged and expected. What is important for her is that her voice is expressed as well as inviting the viewer to experience the world through their senses. She does not strive for popularity or likes on social media, instead she is content with reaching that one person who is impacted by her message through her art.



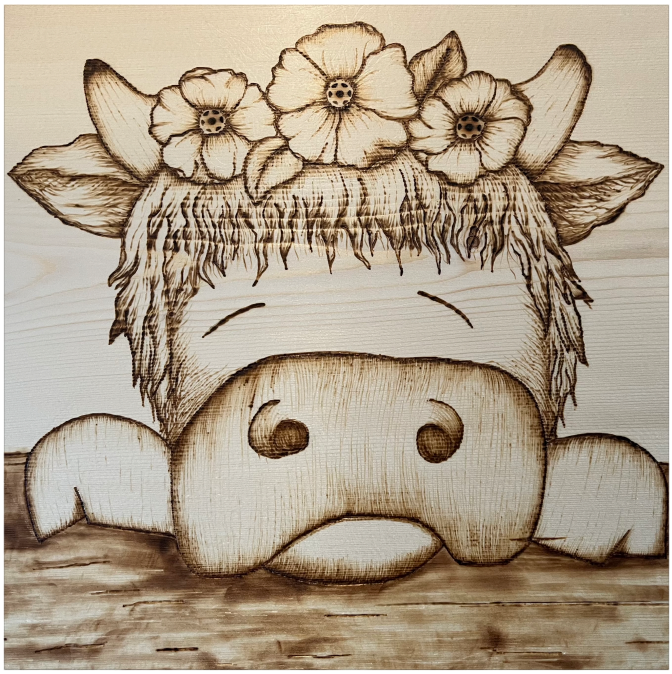
This scene is called “White Rabbits and Platypus Play Hide and Seek.”

If you would like to follow her art and hear what she has to say, follow her on Instagram at #monstraverde. She is also a freelance artist. She is currently editing and designing my coloring book. You can contact her by email at: mlgm21@gmail.com.

TRYING NEW ART TECHNIQUES

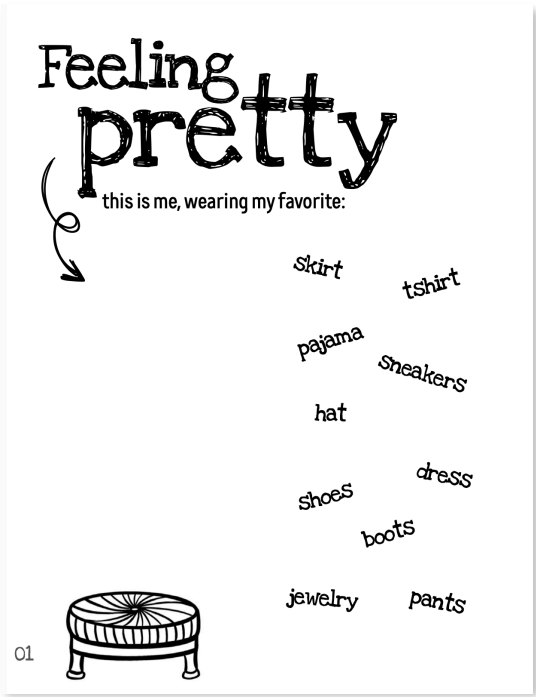
Ever since high school, I was always interested in taking a woodworking class. Growing up, girls were not encouraged to take shop classes and taking science or math classes were more important. I also wanted to take an auto shop class as my dad was always teaching me about cars. Did you know I can do an oil change, change a flat tire, and learned how to change breaks? Who ever said shop classes are not for girls!

Now that I am older, I've learned to not listen to those voices. So this past year, I enrolled in an adult education construction finish carpentry class. I learned how to use the tools, sand, and how to build a small stool. Later, after watching some how to videos, I learned simple techniques on how to wood burn. I love cows, so I decided to create my own design and this is what I came up with. Now, every time I see it, not only do I smile, but I remember that I need to continue to be brave and try new things that I always wanted to try. Is there anything you have always wanted to try, but have not? I encourage you to try and would love to hear about your journey.





Not sure when my love for cows started, but I imagine that one day I will stop at the side of the road and pet a cow. Maybe it is because I did a lot of driving in my life and passed many fields with cows grazing. They look so peaceful, grazing or lying down enjoying the sun. Makes me want to join them.



I remember my mom telling me how she loved to play marbles when she was a kid and how she used to beat all the boys. I think this is the only memory my mom has shared with me from her childhood. Playing is so meaningful and I hope this book creates some memories for others.



COLORING BOOK UPDATE

Good news everybody, the coloring book is moving along. What started out as coloring pages, has now become a coloring book with mindfulness activities. Not only is Marli editing the coloring book, but is adding mindfulness activity pages. Between her mindful activities and my illustrations, I feel that we are producing a book that will not only be fun for kids to color, but also help kids feel grounded and be mindful while playing.

My inspiration for this book really started with simple shapes and then my love for sports and my work experience completed the theme. The simple shapes began to take form of characters, as I added eyes, hairstyles, and movement. Then these characters soon developed into kids playing sports. Play then became the theme since I was a previous child development specialist who taught the importance of play to families. Kids learn critical thinking, social skills, body regulation, and problem solving through play. For example, rock climbing requires much problem solving and motor skills as they have to learn to navigate a terrain. In this book, I also include ideas for parents of activities for their children to participate at a low cost. There are also a variety of activities that use different senses, like listening to music or feeling weightless when swimming.

My question for you now is, when was the last time you got to play? On the last page, you will find a coloring page. I hope you print it out and color. I would love for you to send it to me after so I can add it to my next newsletter.

NEXT STEPS

The next steps are not my favorite as it includes a lot of administrative tasks. I started researching how to publish a coloring book and how to get an ISBN number. I have also found a couple of print shops here in Santa Barbara. My hope is that after doing this research I will prepared to publish this book.

I want to create a website as well. There are so many options for website builders and I am researching which one would work best for me. Since I am planning on selling the book, I also need to buy a business license. The more I do research, the more questions I have and more tasks to complete. Thankfully, I will not have to worry much about taxes since I have hired my own personal CPA, my husband! He is very demanding and I have an excel worksheet ready for him. Nah, just kidding about the demanding part. As for the excel worksheet, well that is another story, he does love his worksheets.

Thank you again for coming along with me and listening to my thoughts. I hope you share your comments and join me in trying something new. I would love to hear what you try!

Much Appreciated,



My personal CPA and I enjoying our short strip to Cambria for the holidays.

