

Melanie

Darling

AURORA, CO



## ILLUSTRATOR INTERVIEW

1. What is your technique and medium of drawing and painting?

My favorite technique of drawing would definitely be digital. I have access to all kinds of brushes and it's so easy to use, and no messes and clean-up. However, when not doing digital, I love using watercolor and pencil.

2. How do you get inspired to produce a piece of artwork?

Inspiration for creating art isn't the easiest. I typically think about it for a while, look at images for inspiration, then jump in and draw, over and over again until it feels like I'm on the right track. It usually doesn't flow well until the image I'm trying to draw finally comes out. Once it does, everything about it feels right. That's how I know it's what I want.

3. What artist inspires you?

I absolutely adore Oliver Jeffers. His talent to write and illustrate, plus tell a great (sometimes hilarious) story is amazing to me. I hope I can find more time in my schedule in the near future to be anything like that. I enjoy the beauty in the art and appreciate the humor in stories.

4. What do you do to overcome a creative block?

Overcoming a creative block is not easy. For one, my biggest is distractions and not letting me work. I have to be focused and ready to sit and let it flow. When I get 2 min to sit and interrupted over and over I have to stop. It's almost like conditions have to be perfect. So yeah, it's not easy working from home as an illustrator with 4 kiddos. However, if I can sit and focus for hours I can get past distractions and let it flow.

5. When did you start illustrating?

Around 6th grade, I remember thinking I wanted to be an artist when I grew up. I went to art school in college but was overwhelmed with the thought of supporting myself as an artist. So instead I did watercolors and other mediums as a hobby, then a small business selling customs artwork. It wasn't until 2018 when a new author friend took a chance on an intimidated artist and pushed me past my boundaries, showing me the talent I didn't think I had.

6. What does art mean to you?

To me, art means expression. It's a way to talk and show beauty and talent with imagery not expressed in a spoken language. It's going deep into the inner mind and pulling out beauty one can see within and how they may express that thought.

7. Tell us an unexpected fun fact about you, that might come as a surprise to others.

I am a 40-year-old mom of 4 that loves to longboard. It's my happy place. Put on headphones and ignore the world for a minute. Using my own body or the force of gravity to move and fly, all on the top of 4 wheels is sometimes scary yet exhilarating at the same time.

8. Where are you from and what places would you love to visit one day?

Originally from Bakersfield Ca, I moved to central Utah at 16 for 5 years. Then to Pocatello Idaho for 5 more, then on to Anchorage Alaska for 3. We settled in Aurora Colorado in 2009 and have been here since.

