

Joana

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## ILLUSTRATOR INTERVIEW

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

For my illustrations, I work with digital mediums and also with traditional mediums, such as acrylics and colored pencils. Even when I work on the computer, I like to use the painting techniques I learned in school.

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

Inspiration can come from many places, even the most unexpected. I am often inspired by nature, by works of art, by my childhood memories and by little things that nobody notices. I like to collect images of things that inspire me and put them all together in a kind of Imagery Library.

3. What artist inspires you?

I have been completely in love with Impressionists and Fauves since I was a child. Their use of colors, shapes, contours, brushstrokes, and everything fascinates me. Whenever I can, I like to go to museums and see, face to face, these paintings that I have seen so many times in art books.

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

I press the pause button. I go walk in the forest or dip in the sea. I try to retrieve my guidelines and go back to the simple lines of drawing. I open the color drawers and move the shapes around. I look for things I like.

5. When did you start illustrating?

I have been drawing, painting and illustrating for as long as I can remember. My PhD in Fine Arts and my work experiences gave me the foundation to be a professional illustrator. My first experience with children's books, in 2017, was with a family project about a hyacinth flower that couldn't sleep.

6. What does art mean to you?

Art is like a window that opens to the world that each artist creates. It's this open window, between the imaginary/imagined and the real, that makes us think, or rethink, about what surrounds us. I also like to open windows.

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

I'm a distracted person! One thing I often do is lock myself out and forget the key inside the house. And that's the only reason why this interview was written in my front yard.

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

I'm from Lisbon, Portugal. I love traveling around the world and I've been to several countries on 4 continents. On my favorite trip I went to Macau to research at the Art Museum. One day I would love to cross the Atlantic in a sailboat and feel like an Argonaut!