

TEAM WITH THE THEME

unpacking my creative process

When I sit down to illustrate, I have a bunch of subject matter and themes that I typically create with. If ever I want to create with an unfamiliar theme, or create a cohesive series of illustrations, I like to use the formula below to get my imagination flowing.

1. PICK A THEME TO EXPLORE
2. DIAGRAM THE ELEMENTS/KEY FEATURES OF THE THEME
3. CHOOSE A SET OF MOTIFS FROM THAT "RESEARCH"
4. SKETCH THOSE MOTIFS OUT
5. MIX + MATCH INTO THUMBNAIL SKETCHES - HAVE FUN!



After you're familiar with this process it can become a very intuitive process and you may not need to write/draw through the steps - although I still find it helpful to get a visual down, especially when I'm trying something new. If you've ever seen one of my *Holiday Swatchdoll* tutorials on YouTube, this is how I approached each of those videos.

If you find straight sketching your ideas to be challenging, you can also draw out your motifs and collage your concepts together to reference. "Team with the Theme 2" PDF has the elements I used in the video tutorial, if you want to play mix and match with those.

Below are some cleaner thumbnail sketches from the class. Please feel free to use these ideas to practice your illustrations, or challenge yourself to use the motifs in a way you don't see listed here. Remember to play with unusual proportions and intentional placement for an elevated, whimsical style.



FULL PIECE



FULL BODY



HALF BODY



FACE