



urban sketching frenzy inspired by @lizsteelart

A couple weeks ago I entered a Creative Frenzy; a term I like to use to describe that process of wanting to try something, trying it and then finding yourself obsessive about the whole thing! It was a stumble across Liz Steel on Instagram that fueled this Urban Sketching journey. I'm ashamed to admit that I think this was the first time I had come across Liz's Instagram and I have been missing out! I was so drawn to her loose approach and the expressive watercolor that I jumped straight onto my iPad to pull some references to try; some Japanese storefronts and the Tokyo Station building (yes, that building from the Japan vlogs that I always get lost in! Haha). I didn't expect much from the play sesh

but was pleasantly surprised by the results. Isn't that always the best feeling?! Whilst this isn't the first time I've done urban sketching, I don't consider myself proficient nor confident. This journal spread represents a change in that perspective for me. I don't think I'm proficient, but I have a newfound confidence to try it more often. If you're feeling like trip down to Urban Sketchville, go grab a bunch of delightful inspiration from Liz Steel's Instagram @lizsteelart account. If you're enrolled in the jibcreative Whimsical Illustration online course, I used my techniques and knowledge demonstrated in the "BUILDING BLOCKS" mini lesson for this journal spread.



Final thoughts from me right now -

I really loved PLAYTEST PRESS. After revising my content schedule for 2019, I have found it difficult to share as much as I want to without over-stepping the healthy boundaries I set up last December. These "blog posts" have really kept me on my toes and I've found myself sharing all that I feel like I've missed sharing earlier this year. However Patreon comes back in the future, be it another "Playtest" or a seasonal offering, I'm excited to see how this particular content offering evolves.)

GOODBYE PLAYTEST PRESS!

Well, it's OFFICIAL – this is the last edition of PLAYTEST PRESS! Don't pack your printers away yet though, I can almost bet I'll throw a few more digital downloads in before our whole experience comes to a close. I've had a wild ride experimenting with this format for my "Blog Post" content offerings. Truth be told, I thought I was in big trouble after the first edition because it took me about a full WEEK to put it together. My assumption was smaller, varied articles would take less time to put together than short story narratives a la Playtest 2018, but I never accounted for how much time the formatting would take. As inflexible as ever, I proceeded to Edition 2 and realized all the work I did in formatting Edition 1 paid off (because I had setup templates to work with). So, not as time consuming after all. I mean, it was, but it wasn't a weeks worth of work, just 3 or 4 days worth. Ok, boring, let's just get this started! Haha :)

ONE MUST CHAMPION ONESELF AND SAY I AM READY FOR THIS - MOIRA ROSE

WARNING!

Beware... THE PLANNERS ARE COMING! Hahahahaha! I am begging you, from my own personal experiences, put your defenses up! Planner companies around the world have prepared themselves and they will be attacking us very soon, with promises of planner peace and productivity... They've been secretly following us, carefully listening to us, compiling battle plans designed to attack our most vulnerable journaling fear... the fear of missing out! I'm obviously kidding, but slightly not. I have noticed a few posts popping up about 2020 planners and it's my understanding that these posts keep coming, exponentially multiplying, until you're in a dark corner of a room, 3 hours into an Instagram k-hole, ordering a Hobonichi with tears in your eyes and a slight feeling of dread. Planners are personal, and as we grow our needs change. The best part (or worst part for some) is that the options are endless. I loved Sketchplanner in 2018. The changes to the 2019 version eventually proved problematic for me. Moving into the FREE WEEKLY Traveler's Factory inserts was a good switch. I don't so much love the format, I more love that it's portable now and I have another blank scratchpad insert in there, which helps a lot. It's very practical and it's simple. I decorate it from time to time with stickers, washi and random doodles and I've been adding my favorite patches to the gorgeous Japanese Narita Airport special edition cover.

I've also got my new "CREATIVE" journal charm (coming in the SeptembeR PLAYBOX) on the string alongside my TRC luggage tag (Tag Tuesday) charm. I hope you have something that's currently working for you, or if you don't, I hope you find something that will. I'm enjoying the fuss-free planner portion and the cover personalization. I'm at Planner peace (haha) for now... No big planner changes coming for me in 2020 I don't think, but ask me again in December...

