

I'VE DECIDED!

I'm not doing Inktober this year! Well... I'm not doing the "challenge" part where I have to learn anything or complete anything, haha. Firstly, let me say sorry to anyone who is looking forward to it. I struggled to make the decision because (even now) my brain is telling me "you can do it, just do it, you're not growing, you're not succeeding".

It's a constant battle in my brain and I feel like the right thing to do is be honest about where I'm at; I can do it, but I need to prioritize making healthier decisions. I think choosing to do Inktober the way I have done it for the past couple years would be feeding into the problems I've been trying to work against this year. Slowly coming to terms with the fact that balance won't come unless I choose it. Never fear though, I'll be doing Whimsyween instead! I'll be pouring all of my October creativity into the festive seasonal challenge and creating content exploring that journey. I've set up no boundaries for myself and I'm looking forward to approaching Whimsyween this year with the freedom to do as much or as little as I feel like. I still know myself and I'm assuming I'll still feel the urge to go overboard, but I will do so intentionally; because I want to play, not burning myself out because I want to "achieve". I've put this year's prompts list down below for you to get a good look at. The research and inspiration vlog I uploaded to YouTube inspired most of the prompts this year and I'm so ready to get it going! Daisy will pop up again for the season, not with any prompts lists, but I'm thinking of filming a How-to-Daisy tutorial for YouTube soon, just in case anyone wanted to invite her back to their world this year.

All in all, I believe this is the right decision. If you see me "doing the most" in October, please re-direct me back to this article, I will most likely struggle to remain accountable to this healthy balance thing... haha!

WHIMSYWEEN 2019 PROMPTS LIST

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|----|-------------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Costumed Shadows | 16 | Tim Burton's Tea Party |
| 2 | Wicked Witch of the West Side | 17 | Haunted Hats |
| 3 | It's October 3rd | 18 | Pumpkin Buns |
| 4 | BOOtique | 19 | FrankenFlowers |
| 5 | Petit Pumpkin Prince | 20 | Fall Fairies |
| 6 | Lash Sweets | 21 | Salem Woods |
| 7 | Bizarre Bentō | 22 | Harvest Stars |
| 8 | Marigold Masquerade | 23 | Grim Greeting Glamor |
| 9 | Boba Bats | 24 | Bunny Bones |
| 10 | Cauldron Cold Brew | 25 | Candy Corn Couture |
| 11 | Candled Apples | 26 | Pixie Fangs |
| 12 | Skull & Moss Bones | 27 | Enchanted Ribbons |
| 13 | Moonlit Mermaids | 28 | The Wand in the Willows |
| 14 | Broomstick Ballerina | 29 | Vampire Heels |
| 15 | Squid Skeleton | 30 | iScream |
| | | 31 | Candy Carnival |

idea for prompt no. 1
costumed shadows



HERE KITTY KITTY!

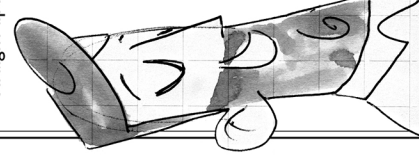
How are the cats? Great, thanks for asking. Hahaha. WRONG! They're crazier than ever! For those of you who might not know: I'm a crazy cat lady and 100% made washi tape featuring photos of my own 2 cats. Truth, it's the "Feline My Oats" washi. Hahaha. Steve and I have 2 cats — Bianca Sophia and Oliver Patrick. Their names suggest they are sophisticated house cats, but Bianca refuses to use any of the 3 kitty litter boxes and Oliver sleeps IN the trash, so...no, they're a mess (but obviously I'm obsessed with them). Bianca is 8 years old and Steve has had her since she was a kitten. She's always been a little unbothered and considers herself a Black Bombay Beauty. I appreciate her diva antics but she was SLOW to warm to me. She is Steve and I often joke she is his horcrux (Harry Potter reference). Oliver is part flame point Siamese and part rabbit. He's 2 and has been a mess since day dot. He snorts when he eats, sleeps behind [and in] the trash and he taught himself how to open doors to free Bianca whilst Steve and I are far away from home. He's actually too scared to leave the apartment but Bianca has no problem waltzing out on occasion. Bianca never wanted Oliver and is still on her litter box strike 2 years later. Oliver loves her and won't leave her alone. Steve says Oliver is me but I will not admit that I agree. As wild as the cats are, they provide us both with endless amounts of emotional support. We break up their fights, stress about their escape plans, clean their litter box territory wars and my eyes get so itchy I can't see anymore because I am allergic to their dander... but I love them! I never want to be without them. I can't even contemplate them not being around because I just start crying at the thought. I'm unquestionably team CAT. Cats cats cats, all day, all night... cats. So, they're doing well. They're who they are and that works for them. Just like any other cat owner, I will continue to strive my best to know how to live in their world. Haha. Meow.

DISCERNMENT over

Something I can be certain of is that, at some point in your Creative Journey, you have created something you weren't overly pleased with. If you haven't, please contact me, I will delegate much work to you and pay you handsomely haha. It's a natural part of the process, and not just the learning process, even with YEARS of experience and a mastery of skill — there will be mistakes and artwork that doesn't satisfy. I've been in many a discussion about the "appropriate response" to such moments and I've often been told "don't be so critical of your work". I understand where that comes from; for a lot of artists, criticism can often feel like a straight up ATTACK on your vulnerable expression.

However, I don't think I'm overly critical of my work... just discerning.

Discernment is the ability to judge well and I don't necessarily think it's a bad thing. The better I am at figuring out what does and doesn't work, the better chance I have to make decisions that would lead me to better results next time. I don't offend myself when I find what I don't like, I'm glad so I know what to try to avoid again. It's important to judge the art, not the artist. The DRAWING doesn't look proportional, not I'M BAD at drawing proportionally. The PAINTING looks flat and lacks



DISAPPOINTMENT

texture, not I'M A TERRIBLE AMATEUR PAINTER. It's also Ok to be honest with yourself... being an amateur Urban Sketcher means I'm an amateur Urban Sketcher, nothing more. Professionals are amateurs first, there's nothing negative about being an amateur. I think it's easier to be critical when you're feeling unsatisfied, but I don't think the "fix" is to not judge your own work at all. Give a good go at being discerning. The sad fact is we will all actually judge every work we do anyway, whether we profess to be non-critical or not. So, when I create something I don't love, I'm sure to be quick with a constructive, discerning eye before the disappointment naturally leads towards a more personal set of criticisms for myself. I'm not a psychotherapist so I don't really know if this would even be helpful for anyone else, I just don't think I would have known how to grow if I never stopped to figure out what was standing in my way.