



my trip home to australia, 2018

Last November I took a trip back to Australia, my first-time home in a couple years. I miss my family more and more as I grow older and I am frequently triggered by my childhood memories of mum saying "family is important, you're going" every time I kicked and screamed about turning up to a family function. Ask me to go to a third cousins' babies' 3rd birthday now and I'd jump at the chance. Distance makes the heart grow fonder, but I feel like in my case it's just growing up. I have always been distant; I left home at 18 to go to Japan. At 19 I was cruising Asia, 20, the Caribbean, 21, back in Japan, 22 Europe, Ok I've made my point... I left home a long time ago and I never felt this homesick before. One of the worst things about my accident was being sent home. It was also the best. At 25 I got to be at home again and re-acquaint myself with my family as an adult. Don't get me wrong, I would never have CHOSEN to move back home for a long period, but it was a blessing that it happened. I had so much quality time with them to see how they're growing. I had their support and I had a chance to support them in return. As a child you never quite



Final thoughts from me right now -

Meow Meow Meow, Meow, Meeeeeow - Oliver.

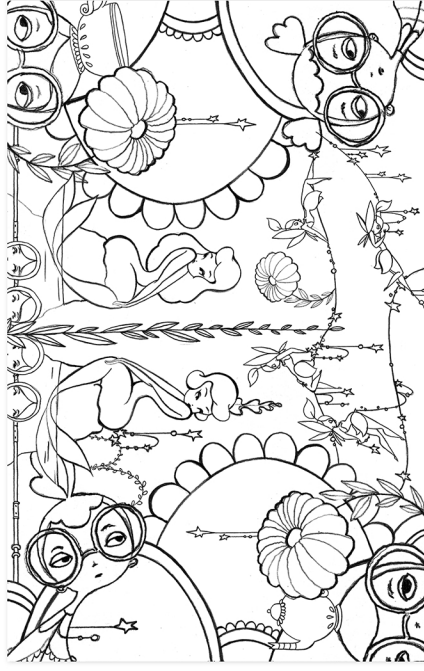
Hahaha, more like "hsh hokjdsbjkb bnb - Oliver" hahahaha! Random story, Bianca got on my computer and deleted a bunch of photoshop layers a few years ago. I caught her red-pawed ON the delete button. Ok, so I don't have many thoughts today because I purged them all out in the August "Studio Notes", but I'm doing well and I hope you are too. Excited for Whimsyween + Christmas! Should I dress up this year?!

A SLIPPERY SLOPE

It's September! I hope you're ready to slide right through to the end of the year! I feel like this was never something I experienced until I moved to the US, but there's a holiday every 3 seconds here until Christmas – Labor Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas to name a few. I am equal parts excited and stressed as I LOVE the excitement of the season changing and the joy the holidays bring, but it's tricky to coordinate projects and goals. I'm not totally calculated with my content so I really get stuck wondering "when do I start talking about Halloween, is it too soon to make Christmas videos?" Many designers creating seasonal products were working on Halloween and Christmas products MONTHS ago, which I have considered, but I'm not ready for that yet. I really can't get into the spirit too early before or too long after the holidays. Surprisingly, I also don't have a ton of Halloween or Christmas content to pull from to design the products! It really does fly by so fast I get maybe a few journal pages done, perhaps some ME A SEASONAL PRODUCT! I want to be more focused on Seasonal content creation this year, specifically Halloween (or "Whimsyween" in this neck of the woods) and Christmas. I've also got a quick trip Down Under planned for November, so I should probably get started on Whimsyween in the

a mashup of last year's whimsyween

next couple of weeks and then Christmas around mid-October. That's where my mind is heading Creativity-wise. Of course nothing is set in stone and I will just go with whatever I feel like doing at the time, but if you were to expect anything, expect Whimsyween to pop up really soon!



playbox custom box cover design

shh...

You didn't hear it from me, but this month's PLAYBOX is going back to the original illustrated. Seriously, the whole thing is covered with drawings! It's a new size for the new products inside and the image to the left is the top cover (featuring imagery from a product inside). Ssshhhhhh...