



FOOD & DRINK & MYTHICAL CREATURES

In case we've never met: Art Horse is a silly and serious podcast about stepping out of your comfort zone - and this zine is a collection of art made by listeners.

I hope you love it!

Jess

Art Horse • Spring/Summer 2022



Mango • *P. Singh*

I've had a little bag of these somewhat creepy blue eyes FOREVER and last summer our strawberries were making themselves into interesting shapes. I love finding faces in food and these two clearly had to go together! Plus the googly eye now makes me think of Everything Everywhere All at Once, which adds an extra layer of delight.

Devon Johnstone • TIGARD
@cockle_the_snail (Instagram)





These juicy little beaded strawberries were made using three-dimensional peyote bead weaving techniques.

I was inspired by the color palette from the design on a can of strawberry beer. While I was at my local bead store selecting the beads, I came across the seafoam-green dagger beads and decided they would be the perfect finish for the leafy tops.

Once I made the strawberries, I knew they must be turned into earrings! They are so lightweight and fun to wear. I look forward to creating a whole fruit salad's worth of 3D beaded fruit!

Megan • Austin TX, USA



This was my first "for fun" project in over a year. It felt fresh and engaging, completely brought to life from my imagination and whimsy. The creature I painted is basically Iceland's version of the Loch Ness Monster, but the lake she lives in is called Lagarfljót.

There is little information and imagery of the monster to base the likeness off of. One source said that the monster had the head of a seal, and I ran with that. The theme of food also intrigued and inspired me, so I thought "why not a cottage-core vibe baking scene with this adorable cryptid?" I had such an enjoyable time making it, and on a whim outlining the details with colored pens, to really solidify the little things in the piece. The painting makes me smile, and I hope you feel the same. :)

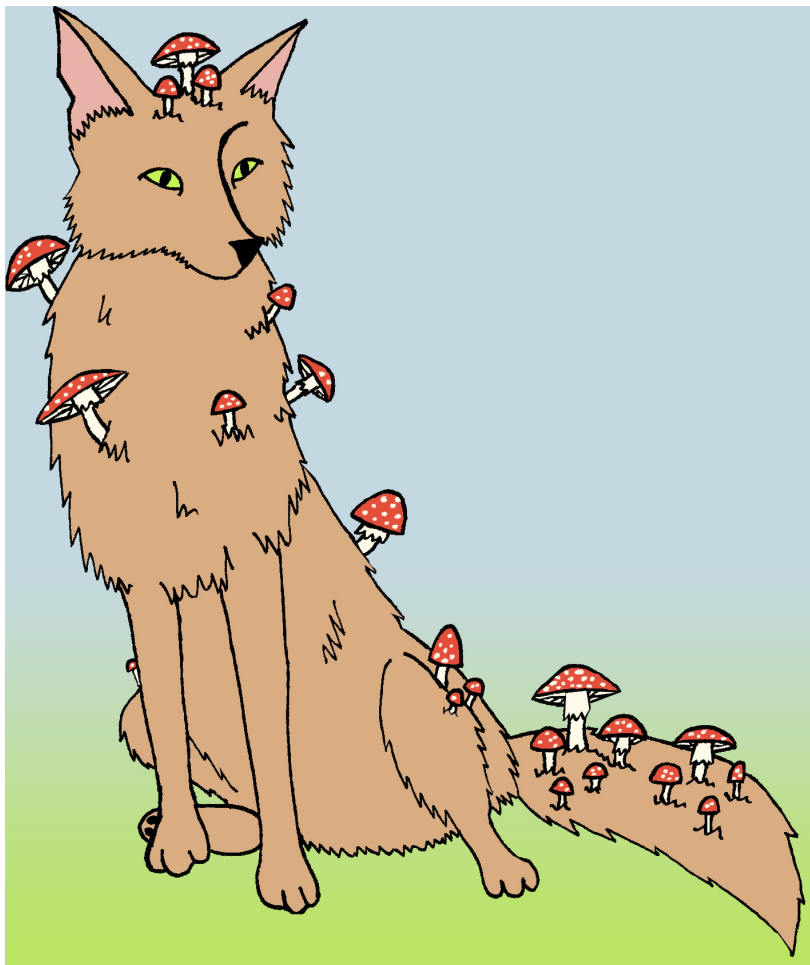
Elisa Mack • Salem Oregon USA
@ElisaMackArt (Instagram)

Please meet the Cryptid that lives in
my home and eats butter and steals
bread and is overall just the most
terrible and perfect himbo:

Mango Steve. We love him so.

Daphne • San Diego, CA
@daphdoodles (Instagram)





I decided to combine one of my favorite motifs, mushrooms, with my favorite animal, a coyote, to create my own mythical creature. This creature was inspired by the mushroom cats my friend Ashley (@hiddenstash.art) draws. I'm so happy with this drawing and feel like it's so whimsical and joyful, which is how I want my work to make other people feel as well.

*Ray Frost • Reno USA
@indoorcoyote (Instagram)*

Paeonia Buniculus: If you come across one of these in the deep, dark forest, do NOT eat it. It will induce psychedelic effects that will have you orbiting Jupiter on a unicorn, and could last for days. Try not to look into its eyes, either — you may get hypnotized.

I loved making this bunflower. A mythical creature is a good prompt for someone like me, who almost exclusively paints by photo. I combined elements from photos of rabbits and flowers, but also stylistic elements from some of my favourite pieces of art (like the giant eyes).

This piece is dedicated to Pancake.

Fiona Cooke • Brockville, ON
@fiona.mary.cooke (Instagram)





"Tea Party" Watercolour and Ink 21.5 x 28 cm

Arthur Portobello Toadstool is a little gnome who first came into being as one of my thread doodles, which is where I take thread, needle, and cloth, and stitch a doodle. He would visit every now and as a regular pen doodle, and got a little story for a comic class exercise.

In my process of thinking, and coming up with an idea for the zine, a thought sprung up for my gnome Arthur to have a tea party with animal friends, two themes with one illustration. This is my favorite type of illustration to look at and make. I love having a scene of little creatures in a kitchen, or reading a book in front of a fire, or sleeping in their little bed.

I loved the idea, and created thumbnails for it. But then I began to think about the limitations of the zine and the time limitations to create the illustration. So I decided that I would remake the comic exercise into a proper story instead. The planning phase went well, but then when it came to making the final comic, I became very unhappy with it. My heart wanted a full watercolour illustration. So I listened to my heart, and took the time to paint the tea party, and was much happier in the end.

*Kelsey Borden • Nova Scotia, Canada
@kelseys_workbasket (Instagram)*

I'm currently struggling with a myriad of dental issues and sometimes it feels like the Tooth Fairy has cursed me. Maybe she was upset about that Polaroid I snapped back in 1995. I just wanted to prove she was real...

Erin am Ende F. • Newtown, PA, USA
@e.amende.f (Instagram)



To me, making and eating a meal is a form of communion, where intimacy is expressed and can flourish.



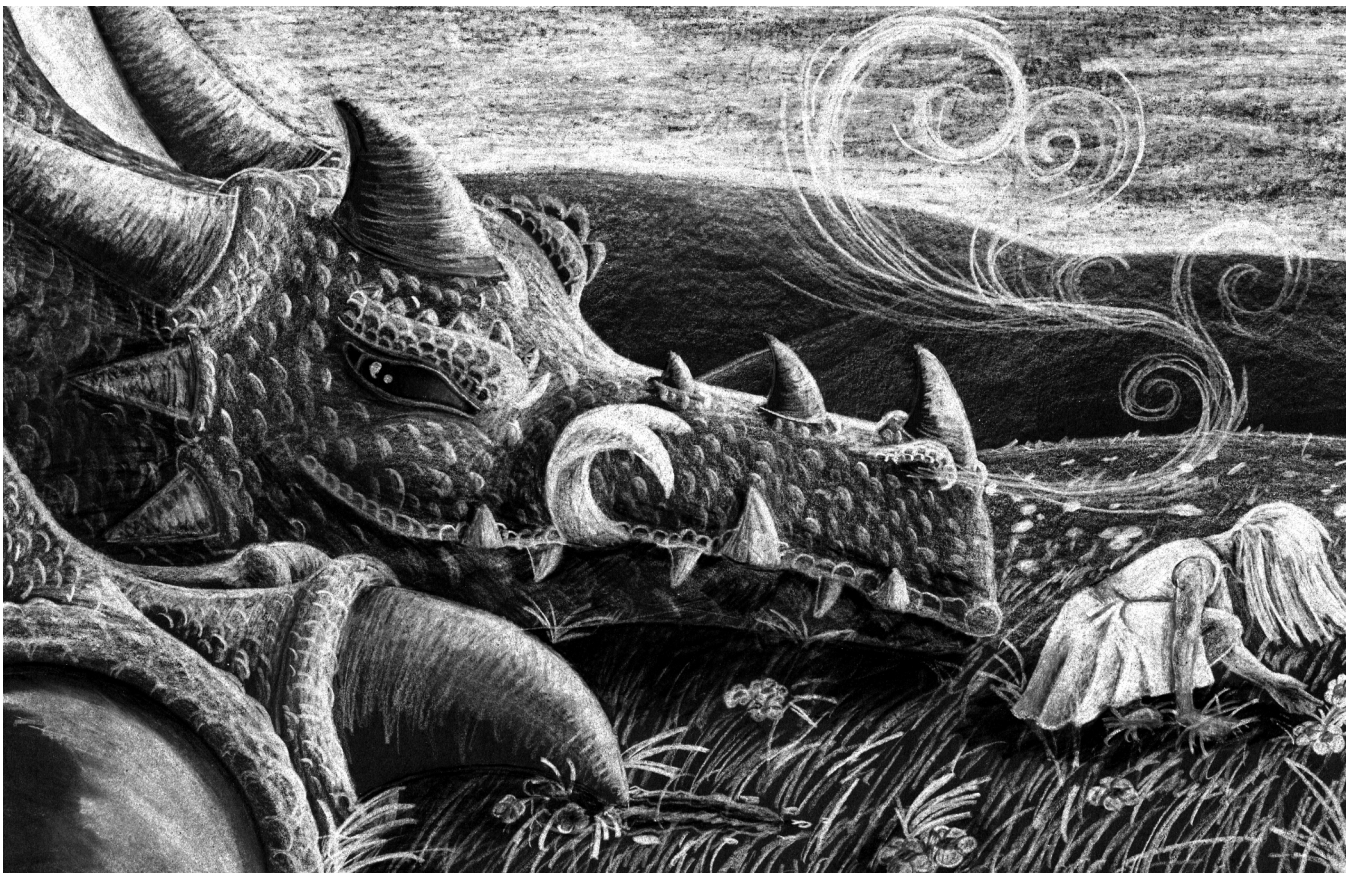
In these photos, my boyfriend is making us veggie bibimbap. Sitting at the end of the counter while he cooked, I saw his affection in each thinly sliced vegetable and crisped grain of rice.

*Caitlin • Seattle WA USA
@cmciver.studio (Instagram)*

Mothman's Beans! This is my first piece that incorporates lights - and it's opened a whole world of possibilities for me! I want to embrace my inner cryptid and run away to the local bioluminescent fairy ring. Shoutout to Kat for the great idea :)

Mandi • Canada
@sundogcreativestudio (Instagram)



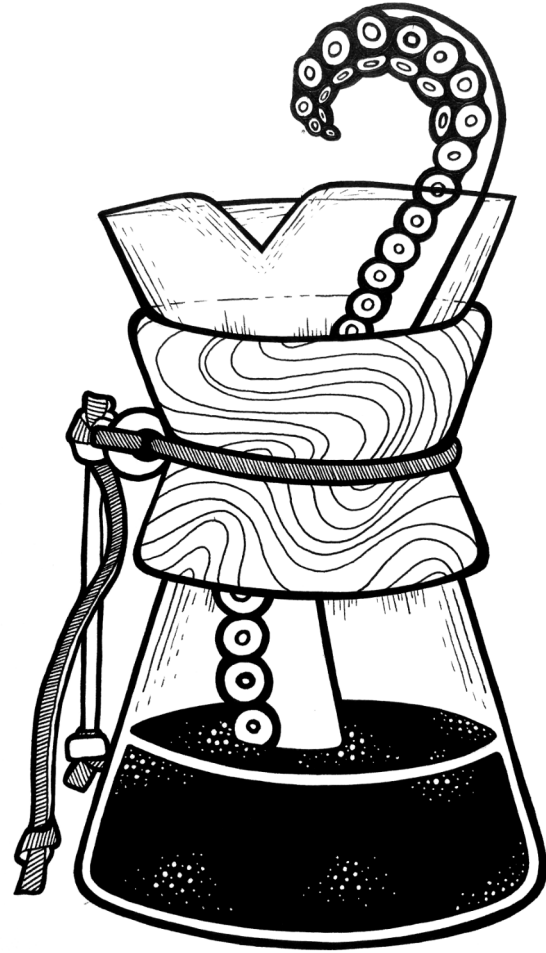


"Sweet Tooth" White pencil on black paper.
Sometimes I'm the dragon, and sometimes I'm the little girl.

Jaime • Cambridge, UK
@jai.me.makes (Instagram)

These two ink pieces ended up being some of my favorite work ever! Both feature coffee—I've worked in various coffee shops for years—and they each include an aquatic cryptid. I also had a lot of fun working with just black and white ink pens, and really letting the line work shine.

*Emily Schanowski • Wausau, Wisconsin, USA
@emthejackalope (Instagram)*





My beginner's luck ran out with this cup and the handle wound up with a small crack, but I kind of feel like jackrabbits are lucky and maybe the cryptid nature of the jackalope will protect it from breaking off. For now it is useful even with the crack, and I am delighted to have accidentally made something that fits the themes!

*Morgan • Denver, USA
@m.kathleen27 (Instagram)*

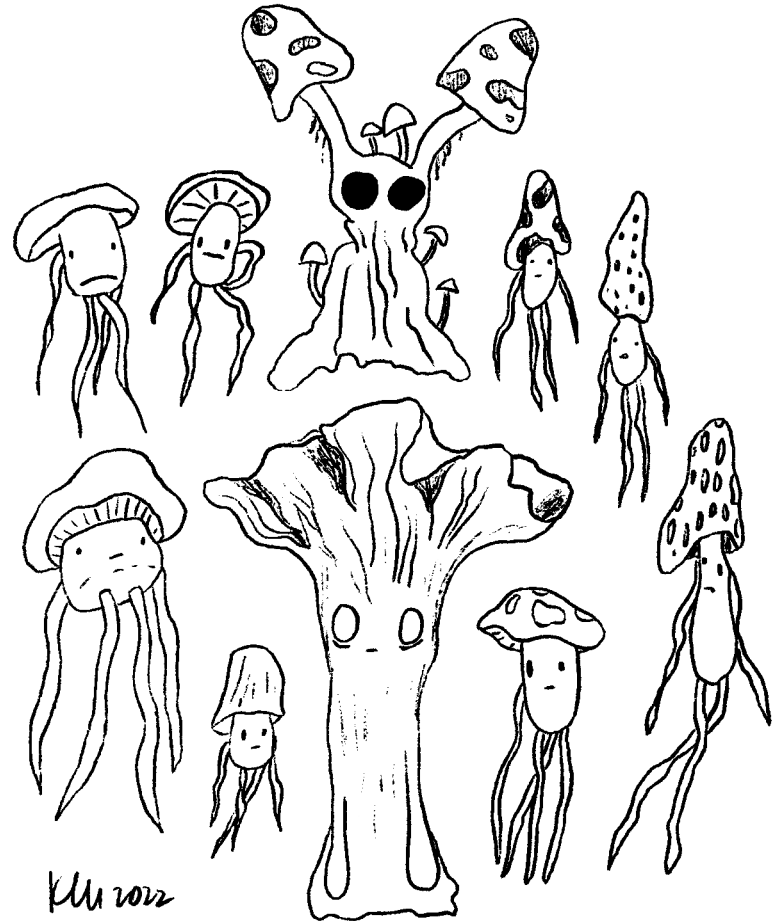
Shroom Goons

When thinking of ideas for this zine I realized that almost everything I draw is some kind of mythical creature. I went through some of my sketches over the last year and found these Shroom Goons, a prompt I did for the May Dwellers monthly drawing challenge by Salamander King.

For some reason, I just kept drawing these floating little mushrooms throughout my sketchbook and they've since become one of my favourite original characters. The main dead eyed mushroom in the middle is one of my favourite drawings and excited about creating something from my imagination.

I just love how weird and cute they are at the same time, it makes you wonder what world they come from and what other strange creatures might live among them.

*Kat Middleton • Ottawa ON, Canada
@katmids (Instagram)*



In *The Bell Jar*, Sylvia Plath wrote about a fig tree to symbolize life's possibilities and the impossible situation of having to choose. The tree has ripe figs that each represents a tantalizing and fulfilling future. But the longer it takes to come to a decision as to which fig to go for, the more these figs begin to wither and fall. I'm just paraphrasing here, but that quote has stayed with me. I still struggle with making decisions, because what if I miss out? "Choosing one meant losing all the rest."

Since coming across this quote, I've developed a thing for figs. I seek out figs at the market, figs in desserts, figs in literature. And I do like to sit with that quote every now and then and ponder. Am I doing too much sitting though?

More recently, I learned that banyan trees are a kind of fig too. Banyans have massive systems of aerial roots that grow down from branches. They look very impressive, and I was so drawn to this image of each root representing a different path in life, yet still connected as one organism. This more abundant perspective propped me up to counter the sadness in Sylvia Plath's original quote.

So, as I was trying to figure out a logo of some sort for my food blog, "Novel Nostalgia," I came back to figs.

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The pink flesh of a fig reminded me of a field of stars, dense and bright. Because I am an astronomer by training, I loved this connection back to space. The universe is another immense tree of ever-expanding branches and more "figs" than we can ever make out.

To join the fig quote and astronomy, I sketched out some stars and a galaxy in a fig. As I'm currently in the process of learning to create digital art, I then recreated the color pencil drawing digitally.

I will want to make some more tweaks down the line, but there you have it - a chosen fig full of possibility!

Kat F. • Oakland, CA, USA
novelnostalgia.com



THANK
you!

Thank you for reading, and thank you
so much to everyone who shared
themselves with us for this project.
This has been such a treat.

Keep making art!!

Love,
Jess

PS: Find Art Horse online at arthorsepod.com

