



Q&A with Kaylani Juanita Summer Stride 2021 Artist

1. What were you thinking about when creating the Summer Stride vignettes?

I thought a lot about Rudine Sims Bishop, especially her writing about books being a "mirror, window, and a sliding glass door." What we read helps shape the world around us, which is why it's important to have access to libraries as well as a variety of inclusive and diverse literature. This is why I made the shelters, buses, boats and portals out of books.

2. What tools do you use to create art?

I scan different textures for digital overlays (paper textures, scribbles, ink illustrations, cloth and such) and then draw and edit more in Photoshop. I use an Epson scanner, a Windows laptop, a stylus and an adjustable stand. If I'm doing analog work or making a texture to scan, I use Dr. Ph. Martin's ink, Micron pens (usually size .005 or .01), Higgins Black Magic Waterproof Ink, a 6B pencil or ebony pencil, Holbein



Acrylic Gouache and different-sized watercolor brushes. I use different scraps of watercolor paper that I've collected from years of art school. Lastly, I put rubber grips on my pens and wear joint compression sleeves for the fingers on my drawing hand.

3. What artists have influenced your work?

Christian Robinson, Yuyi Morales, Aya Takano, Loveis Wise, Anoosha Syed, Sharee Miller, David Roberts, Michael DeForge and Richard Scarry.

4. What advice do you have for aspiring illustrators?

Research and study lots of different illustrators who have different techniques, drawing styles and identities. Also, pay attention to different illustrations in magazines, comic books, picture books, clothing, packaging and posters. There are illustrations on just about everything, so start taking note of each one and the story they tell through color, style and imagery.

5. How have public libraries played a role in your life?

I've been going to the library since I was very little. My mom used to run a daycare and the library was an accessible place for all of the kids. That's probably why I enjoy libraries so much because they feel familiar and nostalgic, even if it's a new one that I haven't visited yet.

6. Do you listen to music or sounds when you're creating? What would your playlist include?

Yes, I listen to a lot of music when drawing! Some of the artists I listened to were Tierra Whack, tobi lou, Tkay Maidza, SZA, Vegabon, Destroy Boys, Cibo Matto and Crumb.

7. What was your favorite book as a child?

I really loved *Goodnight Moon*, it was part of my nighttime ritual before bed. As a kid, I really enjoyed it when the rabbit said good night to every object in the room, including the moon out the window. As an adult, I still

enjoy greeting things I see around my home. Every day I say good morning to all the plants in my garden.

8. What's your favorite place to visit in SF?

It's a tie between Dolores Park and Marshall's Beach, but you need to bring food, a blanket and art supplies.

Bonus Questions:

Do you have a fun childhood memory of summer reading programs and how it impacted you as an adult? If so, please share with us (artwork, prize, books, activity).

My favorite memory is when my little sister Melbie won the library bookmark contest. I can't recall if it was the school or public library, but it was around summertime. They printed her bookmark design in black and gray on a brass bookmark with a red ribbon going through the top. I remember thinking it was the coolest bookmark because she drew this very cute rabbit with scribbly eyes and eyelashes. The brass was so shiny that I was convinced it was actually gold. Using that bookmark made every book twice as special.

What's your go-to place when you want to be inspired?

I put in some earbuds and listen to music while I garden in my backyard. It's easy to feel inspired when I can step back from drawing and do something physical that allows me to daydream.

Did you ever watch Saturday morning cartoons, and what was your favorite?

I watch cartoons every day of the week during the daytime and evening. Some of my favorite kid's cartoons are *Steven Universe*, *OK K.O.! Let's Be Heroes*, *Craig of the Creek*, *Bee and PuppyCat*, *Hey Arnold!*, *Arthur*, *Regular Show*, *The Amazing World of Gumball*, *As Told By Ginger*, and *Adventure Time*.