

CREATIVITY, CALM & A COLOR-FILLED LIFE

CREATING FOR YOURSELF, THE INSECURITY OF GREAT ARTISTS, PEOPLE WHO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES, AND AMAZING ISN'T ALWAYS POSSIBLE

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BODIL JANE

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Bodil Jane has garnered a following for illustrating detailed, colorful windows into the worlds of women everywhere. Her love of collecting, flea markets and botanical gardens is reflected in her work. Her work is almost as if Frida Kahlo had lived in a world painted by Raoul Dufy, but Henri Matisse was on hand to help with the plants.



WINTER HOME ESSENTIALS

I love “cocooning.” I have four different bathrobes! Three are just beautiful, but one is like a fluffy, soft bunny. I love to get out of the shower in the morning and wear the bunny bathrobe and drink tea on the sofa.

BOOKS + AUTHORS I LOVE

I’m mainly into art and illustration books! Some favorites from my own collection are: *In Pieces* by Marion Fayolle, *Dog Years* by Kaye Blegvad, *In the Wilds* by Nigel Peake, *The New Ghost* by Robert Hunter, *Kunstformen der Natur* by Ernst Haeckel. Oh, and lately I’ve been cooking everything from Yotam Ottolenghi’s *Simple*.

CLEAN BEAUTY + WELLNESS

Since I started to work more and harder, I also spend a bit more time on self-care and wellness. I started to go to a beauty therapist who only works with natural products. She made me throw out all of my regular makeup and beauty products and it completely changed my skin.

BEAUTY TO ME

When it comes to people, I’d say: being yourself! I love seeing people who stay true to themselves, even if that means that they are being (very) different from others. People who can decide for themselves and aren’t led by our culture to act or look a certain way. I love anything that is not generic and the same as everything else. I’m always looking for special things and special people.

THE MAGIC OF AMSTERDAM

The city of Amsterdam has a very relaxed vibe to it. It’s really nice to get around by bike and it’s actually pretty small. It feels like a cozy village sometimes. I love all the beautiful museums like the Stedelijk and the botanical garden, for example. I also love going to flea markets or antique shops. I just moved to a place in the city center, and it’s great to be in the heart of the city.

WHERE CAN WE PURCHASE YOUR WORK?

I have an online shop where I sell products (art, stationery, homeware) that I made myself, but also products that I’ve made in collaboration with other brands. My online shop is bodiljanshop.com.



FAV WINTER TEA

I like chai, ginger and smoked black tea.



Opposite Page: Moroccan Dreams | Middle Right: Bodil Jane Cover for Planet Mindful Bottom: For Baan: Recipes and stories from my Thai home by Kay

HOW I BECAME AN ILLUSTRATOR

I come from a very creative family. Both of my parents are creatives, and my sister and I both went to art school. As little kids we were always making things and collecting things. My parents had a huge influence on us. They have this beautiful, colorful house, and they took us to a million museums. I always knew I wanted to do something creative, and I can’t imagine my life in a different way.

GREAT ADVICE I’VE RECEIVED

My dad, who’s also an artist, once told me that as a creative, you’ll always feel slightly insecure about your work, and that will never really go away. But it’s no reason to not get your work out there. That has helped a lot in my career, especially in the first years. A lot of artists are afraid to show their work to the world because they feel it’s still not good enough. It really helps to think about the fact that even the artists you admire still have this feeling.

IMPORTANT LESSON I’VE LEARNED

It’s important to make things for yourself, and there’s no need to always show them to the world. It’s nice to sometimes make stuff without any pressure on it. It can be ugly or stupid, but it’s something that will help you to develop yourself creatively. Only doing amazing things all the time is not possible. Not everything needs to be shared all the time.

CREATIVITY + HOME

While painting and improving my new home, I discovered that I love doing that! For example, buying an antique cabinet and fixing and painting it. It’s really satisfying. Sometimes I forget that it’s nice to be creative outside my creative job.

THE ART OF SLOW LIVING

To me it means that you don’t feel like you have to do things all the time. It means that you can sometimes do nothing, see no one, just be with yourself for a while. It means that you have time to cook a proper meal and do things that make you happy every day. I’m always very thankful for living in Amsterdam where the life isn’t that fast compared to some (way bigger) cities. It’s nice to go to my work on my bike and not to be pressured by the city to always work.