



Bodil Jane / Amsterdam, The Netherlands

# Bodil

*Why did you choose this illustration as a representation of yourself in 2020?*

This illustration is “Virgo” for the Astro Twins and I am a Virgo myself. I’ve spent a lot of time at home like everyone else this year. However, I do love doing things at home: cooking, home improvement and reading. I also feel like an angel has been watching over me as I’ve been very lucky that no one around me got sick. I feel so lucky and grateful that I am still able to go to my own studio and have work coming in.

*What does the animal represent?*

The little kitten represents cuteness and homeliness. I decided to get a pet as well! It’d be a toy poodle, which is very small and fluffy like a kitten.

*If you can say 3 words to the 18-y-o self, what would you say?*

“BODIL, JUST RELAX!” I wanted everything to go faster since I was young. I always knew where I wanted to go and I wanted to get there fast. I’m super impatient when it comes to my dreams, career or things I want to achieve. But if I’d known at 18 what I know now, I would’ve taken things much slower.



www



ig

*What was the one sentence that you’ve said most to your loved ones?*

Probably “I love you!”. I say this all the time as I think it’s very important to express your love! I cherish every day that I share with my loved ones because I know things can change at any time.

*Is there anyone that you want to improve your relationship with?*

It’s probably me that I have to improve my relationship with. I feel guilty all the time for letting work be the biggest part of my life and I have so many lovely friends whom I feel like I’m not spending enough time with. But in fact, work is not just work for me but my biggest passion in life, I need to forgive myself for doing what I love the most!



Bodil Jane has garnered a following for illustrating detailed, colourful windows into the worlds of women everywhere. The illustrator’s work is often female-focused, featuring characters that are approachable. Around these characters, Bodil builds a delicate level of detail through ornaments. It’s a characteristic she puts down to her love of collecting, regularly visiting busy environments such as flea markets or botanical gardens for inspiration. It’s a style that has caught the attention of a range of clients. Currently living in her hometown of Amsterdam, Bodil works from a small mezzanine studio in Amsterdam-West and is represented by Folio Art.



↑ This is a portrait of me in my previous studio that I shared with about 7 other freelance creatives. I have renamed this place for around 5 years.



↑ Client: Red Cap Cards  
Title: Horse Child  
Project: Greetings card design  
Material: Digital

Is there any compliment you received that cheered your day up recently?

I'm very spoiled when it comes to compliments! A few weeks ago I received an email from a dad who purchased an original painting on my online shop for his daughter who was about to turn 8 years old. Throughout lockdown she had been redrawing my illustrations with her colored pencils. He sent me several pictures of her recreation and it was just so incredibly cute!



↑ Client: Red Cap Cards  
Title: Afghan Dogs  
Project: Greetings card design  
Material: Digital



↑ Client: Ordinary Habit  
Title: Indian Garden  
Project: Jigsaw puzzle design  
Material: Digital



↑ Swiss pencil brand Caran D'Ache invited me to visit the pencil factory in Geneva. I'm all the way at the right. It was so cool to see the old factory and how the pencils are made. It's a magical process! I've been using Caran D'Ache pencils since I was a little kid and this was just a dream trip to come true.



• Self-portrait of me in my room at the houseboat of Varda Artists Residency where I stayed for one month in 2016. I had the honour to be invited to stay at the houseboat and create art there. It was a very exciting trip for me, traveling all alone to San Francisco.



↑ My home kitchen. I love cooking and I spend a lot of time here. This is my ultimate relaxing moment after a day of work. It's meditative to me.

When was the last time you felt frustrated? How did you overcome it?

I've felt frustrated about not being able to create personal work recently. I've been very busy with client work and I really miss painting just for myself. Most of the time I was too tired and wanted to do something other than painting. However, the problem is, the less you create work for yourself, the harder it becomes.

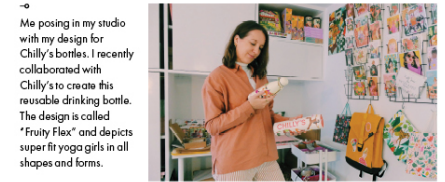
So eventually that's what I did: I promised myself to create one small painting every week without judging and it actually worked. It was my tactic now to just paint and not to judge myself. And eventually I can grow more confidence and do a bigger personal project.



↑ Alina and I decided to take portrait pictures in my parents house and atelier in Haarlem. My parents are both artists and I grew up in a very creative home. Throughout their lives they have been collecting interesting interior objects and their home feels a bit like a museum to me. The house where I grew up was even more maximalist. In my memories my mum was always moving furniture around and painting the walls in another colour. I think it's one of the reasons for my colourful work now.



↑ Client: Eeboo  
Title: Plant Ladies  
Project: Jigsaw puzzle design  
Material: Digital



• Me posing in my studio with my design for Chilly's bottles. I recently collaborated with Chilly's to create this reusable drinking bottle. The design is called "Fruity Flex" and depicts superfit yoga girls in all shapes and forms.

Have you ever felt the need to follow the norms when managing your social media platforms?

No, in fact I've started my Instagram just to document my art school graduation process. I've always kept diaries and documenting through Instagram just comes very natural to me. I love it! I've never used hashtags or changed the content I wanted to share based on the engagement. I just share what I think is cool.



• Painting in progress in my studio. When I started as an illustrator I hand painted everything with gouache or water colors. Now I create all my illustrations in Procreate on the iPad. But I still love painting in the time that I have left. Acryla gouache by Holbein is my favorite brand.

• Personal work  
Title: Tokyo Lovers  
Project: Personal illustration of Peter and me and our future poodle. This illustration kind of sums up the time that I have left. Acryla gouache by Holbein is my favorite brand. There are also things I love: Kokehi dolls, bento boxes and miniature poodles.



Where do you see yourself in 1 year?

Probably not much will change. I can imagine myself having a bigger studio and buying my own apartment, but I haven't made up my mind about the location yet. I would also love to get a driver's license and a miniature poodle. I'm already dreaming about driving to the beach with my puppy on the backseat!



↳ Lovely Leopard, a super soft rug from my first rug collection. Available at bodiljane.com/rugs. They are created in collaboration with the fabulous crafts(wo) men of Stitch, based in Casablanca, Morocco.



↳ My sister Lily and I (left) — 10 & 11 years old — drawing in my mum's ceramic studio. We're actually drawing with pencils from Caran D'Ache, which became a client of mine later. This was actually my mum's ceramic shop and atelier outside the house, that she had around that time.