



wandering in wonder with georgia

Georgia Carter, 20, is studying archaeology and art history in Wollongong, and dreams of one day illustrating a children's book.

What do you love about illustration? I love the variety and challenge – I am always learning more and improving. When I'm drawing I can completely tune out and focus, which is so calming and meditative. I think anyone can draw, it's just a matter of practice, but I've always had a particular interest. It's strange because there is no one else in my family who paints or illustrates or has anything to do with the arts.

Where do you find inspiration? Honestly, everywhere! I will see a girl with cool glasses and I'll want to draw those glasses over and over. Or a song might give me a certain feeling and I will try to create

something based on that. I used to be inspired by realist artists such as Chuck Close (famous for his massive-scale portraits) but I've since fallen in love with illustration. I'm inspired by other artists as well as strong men and women, such as in Greek mythology and pop culture.

If I'm feeling uninspired I'll go back through my sketchbooks and find loose sketches I could make an artwork out of. Or I'll start scribbling from reference photos which will usually start to get those creative juices flowing.

How long does a piece take to come together? It varies. Portraits may take

me a couple of days (especially if it's a commission), but if I'm doing a piece for myself, it may only take a couple of hours. Working with watercolours is quicker; I might spend an hour or so on a piece.

What else do you do? When I'm not drawing I might pick up my ukulele and play some tunes, go to the beach, watch a tv show, sew something, read, or write poetry. But drawing is always my first choice. I'm studying archaeology, creative writing and art history at uni. I have no clue what the future holds, but I do dream of writing and illustrating a children's book. If I can achieve that I will be very happy!



This year you had a stall at the Supernova comic book convention, what was that like? It was so much fun! I went a couple years ago for the first time and badly wanted to have my artworks on display there. When it actually happened, I couldn't believe it! It's one of my happiest memories being there and meeting and talking to people.

What motivates you to paint women? I was having a lot of insecurities about myself. I was continually seeing women in the media who just didn't look or act like me and I felt ashamed of my body.

Then I turned my focus to illustrations of women in art and I started to see bodies that looked more like mine. I fell in love with drawing curves as I started seeing more than one body type and I began to feel more comfortable with my own body because of it. I draw women in the hope that people who follow my work will find their own way of feeling confident in their bodies.

Do you have any advice for aspiring artists? Stay true to what you love to do! In the past I often found myself doing things I knew people wanted, not things

I actually wanted to do. It can be a little scary to post something online when I've worked really hard on it and really care about it, as some people will judge me, no matter what. But as much as I want people to like what I'm doing, I also know I'm creating something I love. It's hard, but I try not to put too much pressure on myself.

When I did start doing the things that mattered to me, I started gaining a crowd of people around me who were like-minded and appreciated the things I wanted to do. So, do what you love!