



WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU THE ALTER EGO OF QUITE POSSIBLY THE MOST EFFERVESCENT HUMAN BEING I HAVE MET, OR AM LIKELY TO EVER MEET. PEOPLE PRETTY MUCH DON'T GET MORE ANYMORE AMAZING THAN MARIAM ARCILLA ...

boupei is a mixed media artist from the land of cranes (or zee gold coast)

boupei is pronounced 'boo-pay' (as in scare you then rob you). The name came about because nobody could pronounce my name (Mariam Arcilla). Also, since I'm quite meek and shy, I thought it would be fun to create an alter-ego that would be this hungry, boisterous, peachy, crass creature who would go on adventures through pencil, thread, paper and sounds. I was stuck on an actual moniker when one day somebody asked what my name was. Not feeling like going through the usual intonation ritual my lips then made this brumbly sigh/mutter gurgle that ended up becoming the sound boupei.

boupei itself as a word isn't a character, a place, or a flavoured milkshake. It is more an 'epitome' for what individuals are trying to emulate: the perfect health, the perfect haircut, the perfect boyfriend, the perfect apartment view, the perfect dinner.

I am quite low tech and dogma-like: I hand sew the creatures, I don't use programs to draw, I use a stills camera to animate (thus accumulating hundreds of frames for just a few minutes), and I make sets and props out of paper, cardboard and Styrofoam. Dumpster diving has its benefits.

Social folklores associated with boupei:

My creatures always have one eye a bit bigger than the other to depict the differences between how we are in society, and how we want to see ourselves in society.

My creatures are always eating. Maybe it's because I'm always munching on something when I draw or sew? Humans are constantly hungry for more information and materials, and like to pride themselves in new discoveries and inventions, be it new words, new diseases and new cures. In a way we are a greedy, ambitious species, and my creatures reflect this through their shiny adventures and abrupt conversations.

Sometimes I draw objects that act like humans. Objects have become a huge impact in our lives through utilisation and commercialism that they too must/should have their own mood swings and times to shine, yes?

Upcoming works:

Solo show on the Gold Coast in March and mid-year, where I'll be debuting new illustrations, picture books and animations. And a few group shows including Tales from the Cold Ghost II, which I also curate with a friend as part of our artist-run-project 'tinygold.' I'm also collaborating with musicians to make music videos to their songs, which should be thunders of fun!

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