

Henri Matisse once said “There are always flowers for those who wish to see them.” These joyful, hope filled words shed some light on how and why I create. I am most inspired by finding beauty in the natural world around me, and recreating this beauty as a form of meditation. When I work, I am often surrounded by images of my favorite paintings - my walls are lined with works by O’Keefe, Matisse, Klimt, Yayoi Kusama, Monet, Hockney, and Degas. These masterpieces share walls with Indonesian batik sarongs, Vietnamese lanterns, tapestries handwoven by Hmong hilltribe women, and trinkets galore. Painterly strokes, luscious texture, and vibrant hues guide me as I put paintbrush to paper. Lately, I’ve been most inspired by my recent travels through Southeast Asia. I paint mesmerizing vistas and kooky tropical plants as a way to turn my memories into something tangible. Through art, I transport myself back to roadtrips through jungle hugged highways, Phang Nga’s limestone karsts, or the wild yet charming streets of Hanoi - all while in my small space in Long Beach, having fun with watercolors or just doodling with pen - on the opposite side of this gorgeous globe we are so lucky to inhabit and explore.