

Eccentric Artists

community newsletter

april 2024



artist highlight



sydney mendoza
graphic designer
sees ghosts
baker



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Gemini



artist highlight

MEET SYDNEY MENDOZA. GRAPHIC DESIGNER & OCCASIONAL TAROT CARD READER.
SYDNEYAND.DESIGN @PATISSERIESYD @SYDNEYSSYDNEY



HOW DID YOUR ARTISTIC JOURNEY BEGIN?/WHERE DID YOUR LOVE FOR GRAPHIC DESIGN COME FROM?

This is going to sound SO generic, but honestly my artistic journey began when I was a kid! Even as an adult, I'm very much influenced by the things I see so this whole journey really started out because I watched too many cartoons. I can't quite pinpoint exactly what cartoon it was, but I distinctly remember five-year-old-me thinking "Oh. I think I can draw that." And so I did. It's been quite a ride since.

My love for graphic design didn't start until much later. All throughout my schooling days, I studied illustration and the visual arts. It wasn't until it was time for me to choose a major that I even thought about Graphic Design. I attended UNLV and at the time, they didn't have an illustration-specific major, so Graphic Design really was the only other option I had an interest in. My days of custom layouts on myspace and amateur photo editing skills finally paid off because the minute I started taking design-related classes, it all clicked! The rest is history and here we are now.

WHAT IS YOUR CREATIVE PROCESS LIKE? DO YOU HAVE A ROUTINE?

Is it bad to say that my creative process is me basically going into my projects blindly and hoping for the best? Just kidding! To be honest, I don't have a process or routine that I follow extensively. It all depends on the project! If I'm working on a project that deals with layouts I flip through my magazines to get inspired. If the project is branding I interview my client until they're sick of me. If the project is something food-related I go out and eat and call it research. If there's one thing consistent though, I need to have good music on. Or video-essays.

WHERE DO YOU GET INSPIRATION FROM IN MAKING YOUR ART?

There's that cute saying that a person is made of all the best bits and pieces of the people they're closest to, that their heart is a museum of all the people they've met. I'd like to think that's how I get inspired, too. My friends inspire me so much whenever I'm making my own personal projects. I love putting myself in their shoes whenever I look inward for creative inspiration. Almost like a what-would-so-and-so-do, then boom, inspiration all around! For a more serious answer, Pinterest really is the greatest website on the internet. There's something for everyone there.

ARE THERE ANY CREATIVE THINGS YOU WANT TO LEARN? (DO YOU HAVE NEW HOBBIES/NEW MEDIUMS YOU'RE TRYING OUT?)

Miniatures! My art these days is more physical, rather than visual. By physical, I mean baking. I want to be more creative with my hands! I've been seeing these beautiful wooden miniatures all over social media recently and I really want to try my hand at making them. I know it'll

probably take an entire afternoon or whatever, but that's the best type of activity for a person like me. Imagine how comfortable that afternoon would be. You have the miniature, you have a snack, and you have something to watch. Heaven!

IS THERE A BOOK OR MOVIE YOU DNF'D LATELY?

I DNF'd (did not finish) this movie on Netflix called Damsel. Sorry Millie.

WHERE CAN WE FIND YOUR WORK?

My portfolio! You can find it at sydneyand.design. Also this whole newsletter! I designed the April edition and had so much fun with it.



movie review

NOTES

If You Were the Last

BY: SARA GUIANG



DO YOU LIKE 500 DAYS OF SUMMER AND NICK AND NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST?

Do you like space? This is the movie for you! When we meet Adam and Jane, (played by Anthony Mackie and Zoe Chao) they have been stranded together in space for years after losing contact with Earth and reality is looming as they begin losing energy for the spaceship. We are briefly introduced to their life together on their spaceship- the eggs they cook in the morning, the goat they keep alive, a blueberry marijuana hybrid that Adam is trying to grow, Jane's beloved Walkman. There is a childlike quality to the animation of their time in the spaceship- the colors, the music, the glowy stars through the window, the ink drawn tattoos, and the

smiley computer they keep trying to fix. They spend a good chunk of the beginning deciding whether or not they should have sex, considering that back on Earth they have committed spouses who are maybe waiting for them, maybe not. When they make the decision to have sex, and grow closer as a result, they are met with the surprising news that their communications have been connected back to Earth and they're able to finally come back home. I was surprised when watching the second half how stark it was in contrast, and began to see how the film was purposeful in showing that the world they had developed together in space was both more vibrant than their lives back on Earth and a lot less realistic. Adam and Jane try to go back to

normal with their spouses on Earth, but they slowly begin to find that both they and their spouses' missing time together had created gaps, and it was no longer the same as it had been before they'd left for space. I really liked the story, and the two realities of space and Earth. The physicality of Earth and space containing these relationships was really interesting, almost providing the space to experiment with what it means to grow together and grow apart. I wish the second half would have been a little shorter, mostly because of the contrast of the two realities. But, I also may have just liked living in space with these two goofy characters more than living in the real life of complicated dynamics and making a living. Isn't that what romcoms are for?



show review



NOTES *One Day* BY: JENNIFER ALEJANDRA QUINTANILLA



I'D BEEN QUIETLY ANTICIPATING

this Netflix adaptation of David Nicholls' book. Quietly, because having the instinct that the internet was going to have many opinions, I wanted to keep myself from looking anything up about the show. I don't think I even properly saw a trailer for it.

I don't know if anyone was expecting another *One Day* adaptation. I know I wasn't, but as soon as I heard about it, I was in. I must have been craving for some heartbreak, I guess.

Story alone, I knew what I was signing myself up for. I had seen the 2011 movie adaptation. However, I'll admit, I haven't read the book yet.

I was curious to see Ambika Mod's version of Emma and Leo Woodall's version of Dexter. Minutes into the first episode, Mod's Emma felt like a friend. I would have been cheering her on right next to her best friend, Tilly

(a fav character!). Now, to be honest, I was a little nervous that Woodall's character in *White Lotus* was too fresh in my mind to fully immerse myself in *One Day*. Not to worry, Woodall brushed that image right off.

Throughout the series, I loved that I knew the beats of the story and yet still felt like we explored spaces of their lives that I didn't see in the movie. There's plenty of holding back, of not being honest, and keeping themselves away from who and what they really want. There's also a lot more of their friends, lovers, and families. I did find myself wanting to explore other parts of their lives. I kept wondering about Emma's family for example. We do see them grow, learn, come apart and reunite. We see a relationship that ebbs and flows and sort of breaks away at times. We're watching lives lived, together and in tandem. The first episode confirmed why I wanted to watch. I wanted to follow Emma and Dexter.

"What are days for? Days are where we live."

It didn't matter that I knew what was going to happen in the end. Their chemistry instantly grabbed me when they first connected and even more so when they're back in her room where they're just "talking and stuff". The buildup when they're running to Dexter's flat while holding hands as *Falling Colour* by Vanbur starts playing in the background (min 31:40 to be exact) filled me up with a joyful eagerness and made me want to follow their journey. No matter the end, I knew it would be worth it. Like the story, it didn't matter that we knew we'd end up being hurt because missing out was maybe even more painful.

book review

NOTES

Fourth Wing & One Dark Window

BY: NADINE NATIVIDAD



IF YOU'RE ON BOOKTOK OR

FREQUENT BOOK-SPACES, then you've probably heard of *Fourth Wing*. This is the first book of author Rebecca Yarros's Empyrean Series, with its just-as-popular sequel, *Iron Flame*, released this past Halloween. In the same reading circles, you might have also heard of *One Dark Window*, book one of The Shepherd King duology by Rachel Gillig. Comparatively, there's no doubt that *Fourth Wing* stands as the more popular novel of the two. *Fourth Wing* has accumulated over 1.4 million ratings on Goodreads while *One Dark Window* only has a little over 120k. Despite this difference, both garnered quite high ratings (4.32 stars for *Window* and 4.6 for *Wing*). Because I made it a personal goal to read more books this year, I decided I'd read them simultaneously. Suffice it to say, I definitely came out of that experience with a favorite between the two.

Let's start with the behemoth of a novel, *Fourth Wing*, which boasts a page count of 512 (though the last few are acknowledgements and other extraneous things, so really it's closer to 500). The story follows Violet Sorrengail as she prepares herself to start her studies at the notorious Basgiath War College. Originally intending to join the scribe department, Violet instead finds herself facing imminent danger

in order to be part of the Riders Quadrant instead, at her military mother's behest.

Throw in the attractive (and off-limits) Xaden Riorson into the mix, and you've got yourself an enemies-to-lovers dynamic set in a world of war and dragons. What's not to love?

Well, a few things, it turns out. But I'll elaborate on that later.

On the other hand (quite literally), I had *One Dark Window*. Set in a kingdom surrounded by a deadly mist, we are introduced to our main character, Elspeth Spindle. Our heroine carries a terrible secret, one that could put her and her entire family in danger. Part of this secret revolves around the voice in her head, a voice she has named Nightmare. Enter Ravyn Yew, the king's nephew, who offers Elspeth a proposition she would be daft to refuse.

I finished both *Fourth Wing* and *One Dark Window* in March. For two novels pushed towards similar demographics, they couldn't be more different.

As someone whose primary genre interest is fantasy, I left the last page of *Fourth Wing* a little disappointed. Having tried my best to not look too deeply into any reviews, I wanted to go into the book as ignorant as



NOTES

Fourth Wing & One Dark Window

BY: NADINE NATIVIDAD

possible. That being said, one of the things that threw me off the most was the writing style. Because of its popularity and genre, I went in expecting something akin to Sarah J. Maas's *A Court of Thorns and Roses*, at the very least. What I got, however, was a writing style reminiscent of fanfiction quality, or even YA. This is not a slight against either of those categories. I immensely enjoy fanfiction and read it almost as often, if not more, than traditionally published novels. However, for a literary work that I hoped would have been heavily edited I expected more from its world building, sentence composition, and character development. If I had to sum up the general tone of *Fourth Wing*, I'd liken it to *Divergent* but with dragons and an R rating.

When it came to *One Dark Window*, I had a very different reaction. While it took me months to finish *Fourth Wing* (despite several parties urging me to read it right away), I devoured *One Dark Window* in about two days. Gillig's writing style leans towards the

lyrical; her sentences flow like the creeping mist present in the story. The book's isolated setting and smaller-scale world lent it a gothic atmosphere, and you find yourself wanting to run around the stoned walls of a castle or a foggy forest in a flowing gown with a candlestick in hand. Now, I enjoy a vast magical universe as much as anyone, but there was something intriguing about a kingdom ruled by magic cards and unable to breach into the outer world. If the Brontë sisters and Card Captors had a love child, it would be *One Dark Window*.

Despite having such different reactions to the two novels, there were a lot of similarities between them. Like many fantasy and sci-fi novels, both Yarros and Gillig employed the use of epigraphs to the beginning of each chapter. These are excellent plot devices that supplement such stories because you're able to better immerse yourself in the universe. *Fourth Wing*'s epigraphs consisted of excerpts from Navarre's history books whereas *One Dark Window* consisted of riddle-like poems that mysteriously divulged information about the magic cards and their consequences.

Another similarity between the two are the love interests. Both Xaden Riorson and Ravyn Yew are tall, dark, and handsome strangers that our main characters are not sure they should trust at the beginning of the story. I wouldn't call either of these developing relationships slow-burn, but *Fourth Wing*

definitely escalates certain encounters much quicker than *One Dark Window*.

As far as genres go, while both *Wing and Window* can be considered fantasy, I would classify the former as Romantasy whereas the latter would be closer to a Gothic Fantasy.

Wing's romance elements of the story more-so eclipsed the fantasy aspect—leaving a half-baked world and an uninteresting magic system that I did not care about. Ultimately, I am not interested in reading the sequel, *Iron Flame*, much less the third installment that was just announced very recently.

Window had a wonderful balance between the magic, the plot, and the atmosphere. It's that mystery that propels the narrative forward, leaving you wanting more. With a page count just shy of 400 pages, I was ready to jump to the sequel, *Two Twisted Crowns*, as soon as possible. Reader, I did.



POST CARD

Oscars 2024 Best Dressed

BY: SARA GUIANG



Greta Lee

GRETA LEE (OSCARS AFTER-PARTY LOOK):

Greta's look for the Oscars personally felt too subtle for me, but her after-party look just had me thinking about opulence, luxury, and how stunning it can be when people lean into their softer selves. The silky soft fabric feels tailor made for her, and the jewel adornments on the dress are such a surprising unique detail. I love!



Ncuti Gatwa

NCUTI GATWA (OSCARS AFTER-PARTY LOOK):

Okay, another after-party look, I know- but the Oscars really could have been giving more honestly! Ncuti's look is all about the metal chestplate, and I'm so here for it. I love how it feels both a part of his figure and not, and the contrast of the metal chestplate with a simple black, tailored pant. My only critique is I wish he had worn a black platform shoe to really enhance the drama of the look!



Ramy Youssef

RAMY YOUSSEF: In describing his look, Ramy shared how he wears a thobe, (a traditional piece of clothing worn by Muslims) at night during Ramadan, and that he wanted to elevate this concept with the pairing of a matching black tailored suit jacket. Personally, I'm not someone who typically finds the color black very exciting, especially at awards shows, and especially on men. But what I loved that Ramy said about specifically wearing the color black was that it was meant to highlight his red "Artists4Ceasefire" pin, symbolizing a call for ceasefire in Palestine. The silhouette of the two pieces on him was also very fitting. I really appreciated Ramy's thoughtfulness in his look and thought this was a beautiful display of who he is as a person.



Cynthia Erivo & Ariana Grande

DOUBLE FEATURE- CYNTHIA ERIVO AND ARIANA GRANDE: I didn't realize that the gowns these two wore were meant to embody their upcoming Wicked characters, Elphaba and Glinda, but it only added to my initial love of both of these looks! I love how bubblegum pink Ariana's gown is, her dewy makeup, and the literal bubble shapes around her hips. I loved the deep forest green color of Cynthia's gown, the edginess of the leather fabric, and how her nails were a jewel toned part of the look. These two were a reminder that playing with shape can be so fun.

Community Hub



CHECK OUT OUR NEWEST DIGITAL CONTENT! "SHAMELESS PLUG: ARTIST SERIES" IS AN UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL SHORT-FORM SERIES ABOUT THE ART VENDORS AND THEIR WORK FEATURED AT SHAMELESS PLUG ARTS FEST 2023.

EPISODES 1 & 2 ARE UP NOW!

SHAMELESS PLUG 2023 ARTIST SERIES YZK EDITION

LOADING...

DO YOU HAVE A PROJECT YOU'D LIKE TO PROMOTE OR EVEN SELF-PROMOTE YOURSELF? FEEL FREE TO EMAIL US AND WE'D LOVE TO COLLABORATE AND PROMOTE YOUR BULLETIN OR TAG US ON INSTAGRAM TO SHARE!

Bulletin Board

Place to promote your project and/or services!

You can generate your bulletin for you by posting under our Bulletin page and on our other Social Media! They can range from a variety of unique videos, just send us a bulletin form for review!

Bulletin Board

AUDIO PRODUCTION SERVICES

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PRODUCTIONS
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BULLETIN —>

team bollozos

what's on your front row?

TO BE READ / TO BE WATCHED



TIFFANIE ROSE IGNACIO

Inside Out 2

The Bear, Season 3

I Saw the TV Glow



JEMSEN YUMICO BOLLOZOS

House of the Dragon, Season 2

Bridgerton, Season 3

Shōgun - Not for summer but probably this weekend after I finish watching "Physical 100" lol

Also, Shōgun is 99% on rotten tomatoes! Bonus:

3 Body Problem - Highly recommended by Nadine and Tyler



team books

what's on your front row?

TO BE READ / TO BE WATCHED



NADINE-GABRIELLE NATIVIDAD

The Way of Kings by Brandon Sanderson (book 1 of a series) Fantasy extraordinaire Brandon Sanderson? Say less.

The Will of the Many by John Islington I wanna go into this blind tbh. Only hearing good things about it!

Weyward by Emilia Hart A B&N employee saw me looking at this and said, "If you're thinking about it, get it." So I bought it.



VERONICA CASTILLO DE LA VEGA

Inland Empire— surprisingly I haven't seen this one and I'm a big fan of David Lynch. I've heard really weird and awesome things about this Film.

The Knick — started the first season a couple years ago but I couldn't finish it and I'm afraid Max is going to get rid of it, so it's on my watchlist

I Saw the TV Glow — a friend of mine saw this at Sundance and recommended it. Shout out to Mikayla!



team books

what's on your front row?

TO BE READ / TO BE WATCHED



SYDNEY MENDOZA

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus.

I have a deep love for cooking shows and science. I bake, so I think I'll be able to relate to the main character in this story. Also it takes place in the 60s!! I love a good period piece.

Silver Nitrate by Silvia Moreno-Garcia. I loved Moreno-Garcia's Mexican Gothic, so I'm excited to start her newest book! All I know is that if you give me a book that deals with the Mexican film industry, horror movies, and occultists, I'm in. I'm a freak, I know.

A Hundred Other Girls by Iman Hariri-Kia. I will never move on from *The Devil Wears Prada*. Never.



JENNIFER ALEJANDRA QUINTANILLA

Poetry! April is National Poetry Month and I'm excited to lean more into poetry this year. Sometimes, a poem can really bring light into my day. I'm currently reading from my Poetry Magazine collection and there are so many gems that make me want to look at life a little more lovingly. Maybe it's springtime, maybe it's poetry!

Better Than the Movies by Lynn Painter. My sister recently bought it and I've been wanting to read things that feel fun and playful and this looks like the perfect one to lean into with that!

White Teeth by Zadie Smith: A year or so ago, I read Smith's "Swing Time" and I've been wanting to read more from her. Having just finished two books that took me a lot longer to read than I thought, I'm excited to dive into some new (to me at least) reads!



Team Roberts

what's on your front row?

TO BE READ / TO BE WATCHED



ASHLEY RAPUANO SANCHEZ

To be watched:

Jaws (1975): In honor of Francisco Menendez

Pearl (2022)

X (2022)



SARA GUIANG

Luster: Raven Leilani. Described as "portrait of a young woman trying to make sense of her life" - v relatable!

Yellowface: RF Kuang. An overdue read I gotta get to before it becomes a movie or show lol

Real Life: Brandon Taylor (technically started but not finished!!)

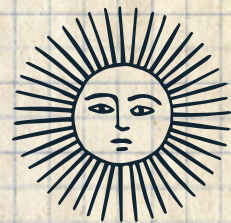


Upcoming Events

Find the latest events happening in your area!



Las Vegas, Nevada



Summer Melodies Kick-Off

@eccentricartists.space | @uncommons.lv

April 13th

Uncommons - 6880 Helen Toland St.

Las Vegas, NV 89113

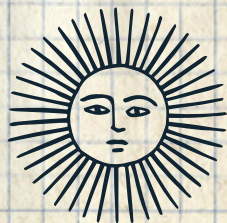
BTN Poetry Festival

@btnpoetry | @uncommons.lv

April 21st

Uncommons - 6880 Helen Toland St.

Las Vegas, NV 89113



Silversmith Class

@NikDreamer & @MarketintheAlley

April 21st - 11AM - 4PM

Sonic Rodeo - 32 W Imperial Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89102

Showchella

@beverlytheater

Various Dates & times in April

The Beverly Theater - 515 S 6th St, Las Vegas, NV 89101

How to Craft a Book Proposal

@blackmtininst

April 10th - 12 PM Pacific

Virtual Event - <https://blackmountaininstitute.org/event/how-to-craft-a-book-proposal-with-nicole-chun-amy-brady-and-tajja-isen-virtual-event/>

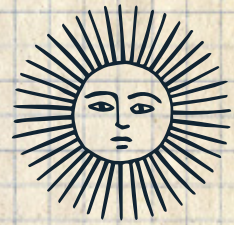


Upcoming Events

Find the latest events happening in your area!



Los Angeles, California



Entertainment Networking Group

@entertainmentnetworkinggroup

April 19th - 6 PM

Inkwell Tavern - 924 S San Fernando Blvd.

Burbank, CA 91502

PalyFest

@paleycenter

April 12th - April 20th

Dolby Theatre - 6801 Hollywood Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90028

Rooftop Cinema Club

@rooftopcinemaclub

Various dates/times until April 28th

LEVEL - 888 S Olive St. Los Angeles 90014

<https://rooftopcinemaclub.com/los-angeles/>

Writers on Writing - Veena Sud

April 16th - 4PM - 5PM

Virtual Event - Zoom

<https://www.wgfoundation.org/events/all/2024/4/16/writers-on-writing-with-veena-sud>



Employment Opportunities



Jobs, Grants, Contests and More

Public Initiatives Program Specialist

Nevada Arts Council | Northern Nevada

@nvartscouncil

Production Content Specialist

Chani Nicholas | Remote

<https://chaninicholas.com/careers/>

Content Syndication Writer

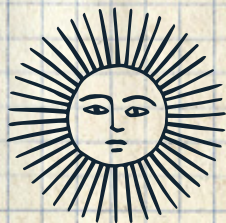
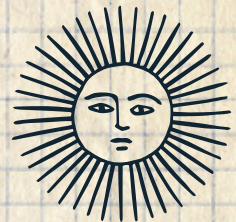
Blavity Inc. | Remote

<https://blavityinc.com/open-positions/>

Junior Graphic Designer

House of Intuition | Southern California

<https://houseofintuitionla.com/pages/job-opportunities-jr-graphic-designer>



Thank You for Reading!

Eccentric Artists Editorial Staff

Nadine-Gabrielle Natividad

Editor-in-Chief

Sydney Mendoza

Graphic Designer

Sara Guiang

Editorial Staff Writer & Beta Reader

Jennifer Alejandra Quintanilla

Editorial Staff Writer

Gemini

