



@_photopotamus_



u/Oddarette



@laurailustrates



@candace_fincher

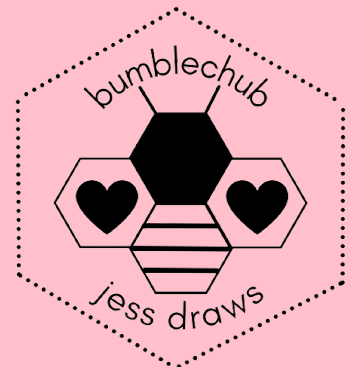


Greb Comics



Pax and Jude

follow the creators featured!



find more of my work at
www.bumblechub.com

for an accessible version of this zine, go to
this link: bit.ly/3CYoKID:

comes around ♡ what goes around

BEING NICE ONLINE

a zine by bumblechub



I had the idea that I wanted to do something creative for January. Typically that would mean, for me, something like a drawing challenge. I decided instead I'd try to make some zines. I love zines so much. They're one of my favorite expressions of art. I didn't make any zines in 2022. Why not start 2023 with one?

I also had the idea in 2023 to try doing a grateful journal to better appreciate the goodness of life. In a similar vein, I thought a good idea for a zine could be leaving one nice comment per day on other people's posts. At first I thought I would

In retrospect, some other platforms I could've commented on that might have been fun would be

- opening up my old deviantart and finding some artists of my youth to shower with praise
- venturing into AO3 for a good fanfiction
- using storygraph (alternative to Amazon-owned goodreads) to leave a nice review for a book
- comment on a creator's YouTube video (can't believe I didn't think of this before, I LOVE YouTube)

I did reach a critical point at day 11 of working on this zine where I was like wait...is this weird? Is this bad? Would creators be mad to be featured in this zine with my crappy redraws? My partner assured me that it was cute. I hope ze was right!!

questions I'll continue to think about:
How have I been nice online lately?
How do I curate the spaces I'm a part of online?
How does this align with my values?

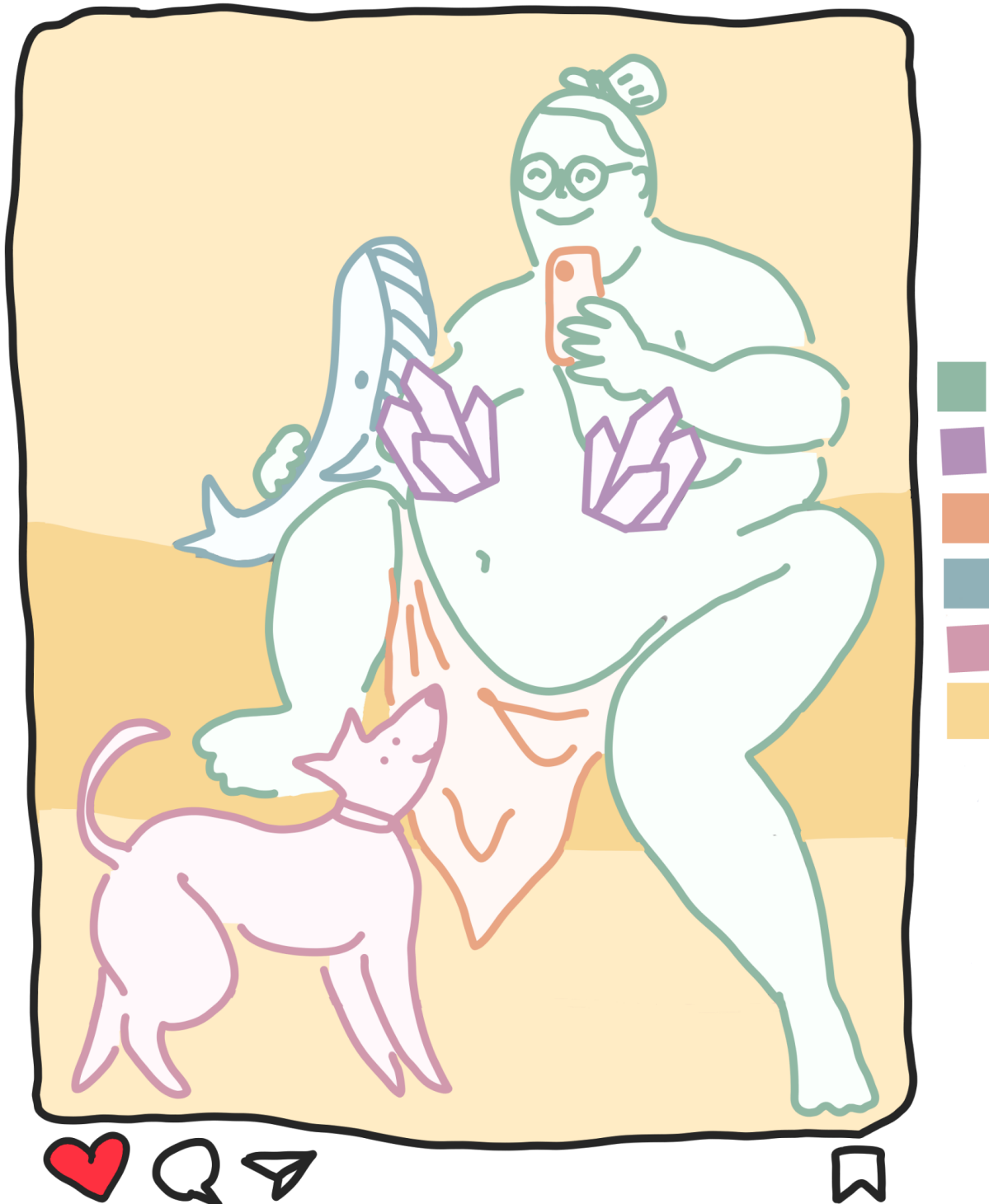
What are my thoughts at the end of this adventure? This string-of-consciousness style of writing was fun and easy. Commenting nice things on people's posts made me happy. Essentially no one ever replied, but that wasn't the point- I wasn't starting a conversation, really. Just trying to let people know they're appreciated. I hope simple moments of ephemeral happiness - seeing a positive comment in a social media feed - brighten these people's days. I know when I get comments on my art I feel like I am glowing.

I also know that I always want to comment the same thing, because it's often the first thought that comes to me... So this was a good exercise in creativity. For example, my go-to compliment right now is "How does it feel to be the (most beautiful person / best artist / top musician) of all time?" Trying to mix it up a bit is challenging!! And trying to find the right words to make people feel Seen is hard, too! For this reason I try to give compliments with a little more detail. Is it better to leave more, generic comments or fewer thoughtful ones? I don't know.

just do Instagram, and just do art. I'm working to be more flexible with my goals, (and in turn, more forgiving of myself) so instead I'm going to mix it up and do multiple different social media platforms, one every day of the week. The problem is I don't think I'm actually on seven different social media platforms... So day 7 will probably be a wild card. I also decided that the posts don't have to be art, they can be anything. I think to add a fun artistic element I might redraw the subject of the post, or handwrite my comment in the zine. I'm not sure yet.



😊 _photopotamus_



Cheers to 2023- I hope it's gentler for us all, but if it isn't, I hope it is transformative.

"In this new year, I want to give you permission to exceed the story you have of yourself. To continually outgrow the imagination you have of yourself."

seven

As I said in the beginning, day seven was for sure going to be a wildcard. I was running out of social media...some of the socials the past few days, I had had a hard time finding anything to comment on. I saw my options as both limited and diverse. Should I comment on some art in one of the private discords I'm in? That fits the prompt of being nice online. Should I try to find something on Pinterest? So little of what people post is their original art, usually it's gotten from somewhere else and I'd have to track it down to leave a comment where the creator could see it. Eventually, I had the idea to leave a comment on one of my favorite webcomics hosted on WebToons. Pax and Jude is a queer slow burn supernatural/scifi alien+human romance. It's SO GOOD. I recommend it to anyone and everyone. It even has a conlang!

PAX & JUDE

by Haly Powell



*if I had one million billion dollars I would finance you,
dear creator, to work on this every day so I could see
their relationship progress faster*

one

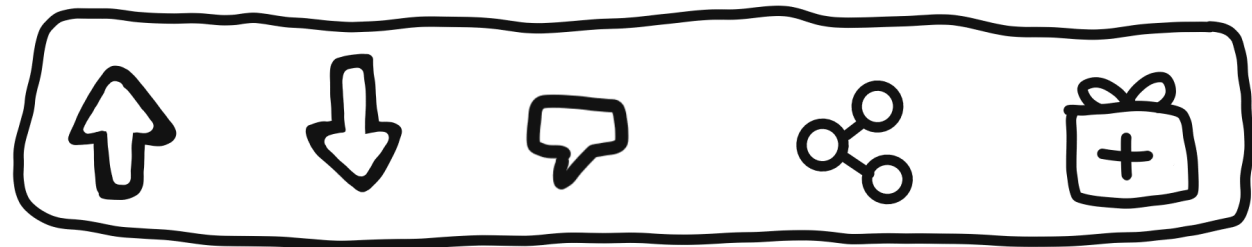
The first day was easy. I found a post almost immediately in my Instagram feed. Since it was a photo of a person, I wanted to leave a unique compliment. While searching for a post I had saved of non-appearance-based compliments (sidebar: I still haven't found it), I came across a post that Janelle Monae had made. The wording struck me. I copied the text, with attribution, and added a few words of my own before commenting on this person's portrait. I hope it makes them happy. I hope it gives them hope for 2023.

I think my ultimate goal when I comment is to make people feel seen and appreciated. I think it's possible another outcome will be I will feel more connected to the communities I swim in across social media.

Another byproduct is boosting the engagement for these smaller creators, which helps them make \$\$\$\$. I want people to know that I'm grateful that they exist where I have the privilege of seeing them. Everyone should commit to their privacy, but, when they choose to share themselves, what a gift.

r/RATS
u/Oddarette

I decided to draw
JAWBREAKER RATS!



*now I want to see a rat candy series...sour gummy,
rock candy, a twirly lollipop, strawberry bonbon, etc*

six

Day six was about Twitter. What can I say about Twitter, as a platform, in January of 2023? A lot. But instead I'll just summarize that it's a shitshow, in no small part due to whiny billionaire Elon Musk.

I have had multiple twitter accounts for many years- a professional one I use for organizing, an art one, some that I have access to from organizations I've been a part of. The designated "art twitter" I barely use. I even have in my bio "not really for posting, but for following and connecting with other artists!" When I come across an artist in a zine, or in a public space, or a gallery or something similar, sometimes I'll look up their socials so I can stay in contact. If they have absolutely NO other socials I'll follow them on Twitter.

I scrolled for quite a while before I found this piece, but when I did, I was delighted. It filled me with child-like wonder. I thought to myself, "I wonder if it's a cat-sized moth or moth-sized cat?" and then had a lengthy internal dialogue about which would be cuter.



Key-lime pie

@keymonster

Sketchbook - Cabbage White Kitten in
the Sweet Peas - 2022 #ArtistsOnTwitter



I don't think anything could be more perfect than this soft little baby

two

Day two, I was feeling worried I wouldn't be able to find something on Reddit- a lot of the subreddits I follow are people actively seeking commissions for their art, so it feels a little weird to be like "GREAT ART!" but not commission anything. Although, I think it likely helps get their post seen by more people - #engagement.

All the same, today's art came from an unexpected place: the r/RATS subreddit! I have never owned rats but I love them dearly. They are one of those animals that's so misaligned in the public eye, but such a dear and intelligent friend when a pet. I like being able to see endless pictures of people's pets, and, on occasion, people will also post rat art to this subreddit. That's where I found today's piece. This piece is so unique and so colorful, I was absolutely captivated. I hope they end up selling stickers and art prints of it, because I bet so many people would buy it. For my comment, I talked about how cute the art was, and then I also gave some ideas for how to make it into a series, if the creator was interested. I know lots of people suffer from art block.

Sometimes a wayward idea or two from a random commenter can help break it.

 laurailustrates



wishing you a happy new year!



This is probably the prettiest new year's art I've seen for 2023. Thank you so much for creating it. I hope your year fills you with hope as bright as the star the bear reaches for!

five

I wanted to try out Facebook for day five. I KNOW I've seen art on Facebook before, even though that's not how I typically use the platform. Despite it being unpopular these days, I actually mostly use FB for getting / sharing news. There's lots of people on FB who I only know through FB, but that are important community members. I enjoy having a small thread of connection with them, even if undeserved.

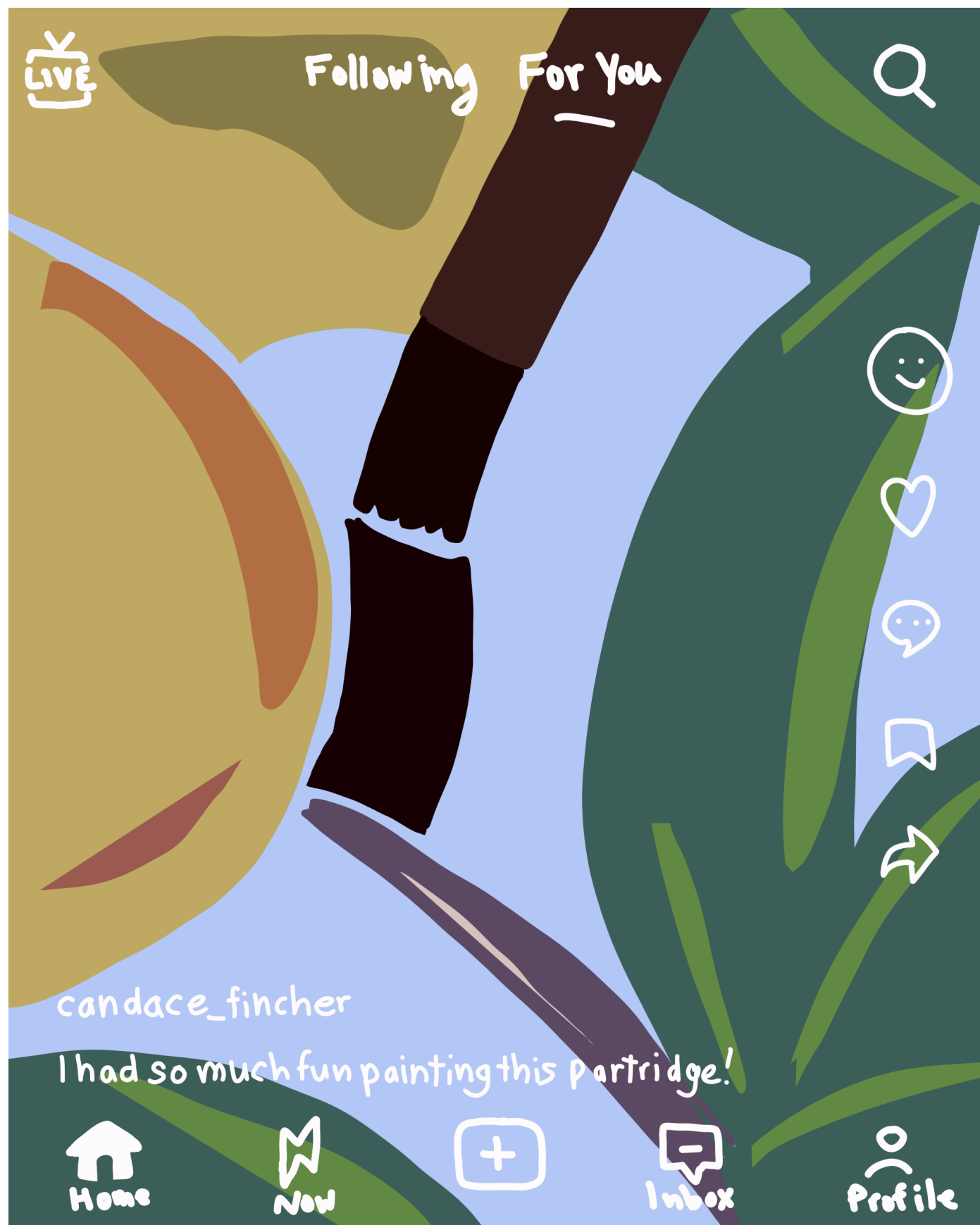
I managed to scroll all the way to the end of my feed (I even got a message that was like "that's it! follow more pages or make more friends or something idk!!") and didn't find anything. I went back and looked at some friend's pages and found some art that was kind of a meme but more a wholesome comic. I appreciate the sentiment - similar to the new year's wish from Tumblr. I DO want to eat soup in 2023. I DO want to make a friend. I want to be a little frog living a simple life caring and being cared for. May we all have the resources and community we want, need, and deserve in 2023.



three

I decided on Tumblr for day three, and it was easy as pie. I had only followed this artist recently, so I'm happy they popped up in my feed. This art was so cute and poignant for the new year. Aren't we all reaching for something bright? So many people have so many well wishes for 2023. I think this year, I feel like I'm seeing people temper their expectations more... "may we live in uninteresting times", "I don't want the Best Year Yet I want a year where everything isn't on fire", that sort of thing. It's not wrong to hope for stability, the mundane. It's not wrong to set achievable goals and expectations instead of high, pie-in-the-sky ones. Grind culture is dead.

This is the inspiration and motivation I want and need for the new year



Your linework is so crisp and fearless! I'm in awe!

four

It's easier to get sucked into TikTok than any other platform. This is a sentiment I've seen from people on and off the app alike. Me, I don't mind. as long as it's showing me content that I actually want to see. AKA, art or cats. My algorithm has been a little finicky lately, but I did find this video and was immediately taken with the precision and boldness of the line work of this person's brush as they painted. I had to stop to pay them a compliment. Even though someone had already commented almost the same thing I wanted to say. I don't think there's any harm in a repeat comment, especially if it's reinforcing how wonderful something is. After commenting I gave this person a follow, as well. I always need more artists in my view, to inspire me and hold my heart.