

Linn Olofsdotter: WORK AT PLAY

Linn Olofsdotter is a mother, wife, dog owner, and illustrator from the northern part of Sweden by the ocean. While studying graphic design nine years ago, she discovered illustration, and instantly her career as an artist began. And simply the best part about being a professional artist, Lynn has discovered, is that she loves going to work.



WORDS: sarah jayne fell



Linn has lived and worked in Europe, the US and Brazil, most recently as a senior art director at a Boston advertising agency. She now works independently from home. Her illustration work ranges from fashion editorials for magazines to advertising and packaging to her personal work shown here, which is most striking for its story-laden characters that hark back to childhood fairytales. These characters "come about very casually," she says, "most of the time while listening to music or watching a movie. I don't think 'I'm going to draw a fat lady with large hair' – I just start drawing and see what comes out." She adds, "A lot more consideration goes into my commercial work."

Linn explains her creative process:

"Normally, I spend the first day or so thinking about the project. I try to figure out what kind of mood or atmosphere I want to create."

I never work with traditional sketches. Sometimes I take photographs of myself in different scenarios or poses to see if the composition would work. I then draw all sorts of elements. After that, I scan the drawings and begin assembling the illustration in Photoshop.

Textures are layered with the drawings and colours, often creating files of several hundred layers. The final pieces are essentially digital collages. I don't like them to look computer-generated so I create a lot of my own brushes, which helps me make each image a little more of my own."

Linn has recently had a baby, and says her life has changed quite dramatically, now getting in around nine work hours a day. "Before she came into our lives, we worked pretty much non-stop, which means ten to sixteen hours a day, seven days a week."

The most interesting thing going on in Linn's life right now is "A dead creature in my yard! I can smell it, but I can't find it and it's driving me crazy. Maybe I'll do an illustration about it!" Her plans for the future include a woodworking class. "So, perhaps next summer I'll come back as a furniture designer!"

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