

Since 2020 has been such a slog for all of us, we wanted to launch the new year off with something fresh and stylish.

Rather than using familiar Hallmark-style imagery for our 2021 calendar, we tried to use depictions that were at once more personal, more diverse, and more specific to time & place.

To pull this off, we reached out to three artists (Druscilla Santiago, Joelle Avelino, and Michelle D'Urbano) from different parts of the world (Hawaii, London, and Zambia), and asked them to create illustrations that reflected their lived experiences for each particular month.

We're thrilled with the results and hope you are too!

Joelle Avelino is a UK-based illustrator and animator whose family is from Angola and the Republic of Congo. She was born in Gabon and grew up in London, and her work reflects her heritage, the phenomenal women who inspire her, and the everyday life around her.

Website:
joelleavelino.com

Instagram:
[@joelle_avelino](https://www.instagram.com/joelle_avelino)

Michelle D'Urbano is a Zambian-Italian illustrator and textile designer based in Chingola, Zambia. Her colorful and vibrant designs reflect a range of influences from her heritage and upbringing.

Website:
michelledurbano.com

Instagram:
[@basic_mich](https://www.instagram.com/basic_mich)

Druscilla Santiago is an illustrator based in Honolulu. Her work uses lots of bright colors & thick lines and is heavily influenced by her experience growing up in Hawaii.

Website:
adventurefun.club

Instagram:
[@adventurefunclub](https://www.instagram.com/adventurefunclub)



“During winters I remember that my mum and elder family members were always wearing extra layers of clothing for warmth, which we thought was a huge exaggeration as kids and found extremely funny.”

-Joelle Avelino, illustrator

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"It's usually raining this time of year, and our favourite family pastime is playing cards and board games when the weather isn't so great."

-Michelle D'Urbano, illustrator

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"A warm spring on the beach with local (to Hawaii) snacks."

-Druscilla Santiago, illustrator

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"April showers! I remember running in the rain as a child."

-Joelle Avelino, illustrator

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“Yellow wildflowers bloom all across Zambia during this time of year.”

-Michelle D’Urbano, illustrator

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“Every summer my mum would sew us new dresses in African prints. We always had at least one dress that matched.”

-Joelle Avelino, *illustrator*

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"I remember going to my father's village in Italy during childhood summer holidays and being spoilt with all kinds of treats."

-Michelle D'Urbano, illustrator

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“Summer is mango season and as a kid I loved to eat pickled mango. It’s found in seed shops all over the island and often sold on roadsides.”

-Druscilla Santiago, illustrator

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"Hair was always something that we took a lot of pride in. Getting a new back-to-school hairstyle was the highlight of returning to school, and I'd always be excited by the style my mum would choose."

-Joelle Avelino, illustrator

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“Flamboyant trees, which are very common to see in cities here, start to bloom in October, marking the change of the season.”

-Michelle D’Urbano, illustrator

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“Thanksgiving! My gramma made the entire meal, and the signature dish was gandules rice. It wasn’t too long before I was in charge of prep, but as a kid I liked watching her cook.”

-Druscilla Santiago, illustrator

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"We love Christmas music in our home! We start singing it before Thanksgiving."

-**Druscilla Santiago**, *illustrator*

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