

Wish You Were Here: *MariNaomi*

When did you live in the Bay Area, and what brought you here?

I lived in the Bay Area from age 8 until age 40. I think my folks chose Mill Valley because of the scenery. I personally preferred the bustle and vibrancy of San Francisco.

What prompted you to leave?

My husband got lured away by his dream job! I never thought I'd leave the city, except maybe to live in NYC, which I haven't yet. We've always intended to return to the Bay Area someday, but I guess that depends on whether prices go down, or if I strike it rich.

Where did you end up?

Los Angeles, and it's grown on me.

Has your artwork changed or evolved since you left the Bay Area?

Since I left SF, I've been working primarily in graphic novels/memoirs, with only the occasional standalone art piece here and there (although there have been some good ones, including a piece commissioned by the Smithsonian). I really miss creating standalone art, so I was delighted to be invited to this show.

What are you up to now?

As of March 2020, I'll have published seven graphic books, and I have another collage-memoir that is currently being shopped around by my agent. I'm working on another graphic novel, and after that I'd love to get back into the fine arts world. My dream project would be to create a large-scale narrative multimedia art installation.