

Wish You Were Here: *Ayu Tomikawa*

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

I lived in the Bay Area from 1994 until 2015.

The first motive I had was to see and experience the larger world outside Japan. I did not think I would end up staying there for more than 20 years.

What prompted you to leave?

Around the same time as we had our son, my partner got a job in Japan.

Where did you end up?

I live in Yokohama, Japan.

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

Having my son has been the biggest influence for me. I believe the core of what I make is and will be the same, however right now I feel the need to experiment in order to be free from what I have made before having my son. Eventually I believe my old self and new self will merge into one and evolve.

What are you up to now?

I am making custom stamps, sketches for picture books, and other future projects.