

Wish You Were Here: *Lindsey Kustus*

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

I moved to San Francisco from Warrenville IL in 2003. What originally brought me here was the Academy of Art College in San Francisco and an opportunity to move to California. I've moved away a couple of times, but always came back. The Bay Area is home. The chilly summer fog has settled deep in my bones and will forever hold a special place in my heart.

What prompted you to leave?

A once in a lifetime opportunity to move overseas. My husband and I have been itching for a new adventure away from home and this past year were offered a chance to work and live in London for a few years.

Where did you end up?

We're currently living in the Hackney borough of London, England.

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

It's hard to say so far since we've only been gone a few months. But during the moving process was the longest break I've taken from painting every day since I began my career, and I think that proved to be very beneficial. I was completely off my game when I started back up and had forgotten some of my go-to formulas. So immediately it forced me to experiment a little with the steps to begin a painting. It was terrifying at first but refreshing and oddly confidence building in the end, so I'm hoping that's a good sign for all of the future London based paintings to come.

What are you up to now?

Painting, painting, painting... I'm working on a few shows coming up in the summer, so I've been exploring the city when I can but mostly to take photo reference. London is utterly inspiring and endless when it comes to people, places, and things to paint. And once the weather is nicer, we're planning a few plein air painting trips outside of London to explore the natural world as well. Number one and two on the list for me is fossil hunting on the Jurassic Coast and Puffin spotting on the cliffs of Wales. And of course sketching and painting all along the way.