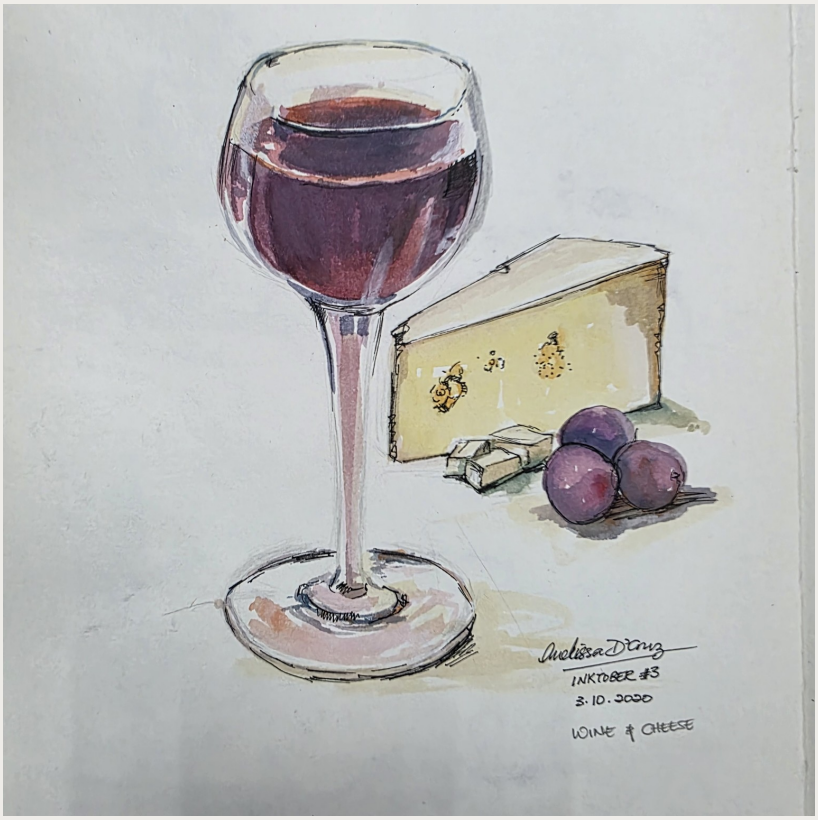
A COCKTAIL WISHLIST FROM 2020

THE UNPOURED *Collection*

A little collection of imaginary drinks, drawn when going out for one was quite another matter.



INK / WATERCOLOUR / WISHFUL THINKING

MELISSA ANNETTE D'CRUZ

02

Inside *this issue.*

A sketchbook from a strange year. A menu of things I fancied, and ten small illustrations that became a souvenir of staying in.

03 **THE PREFACE**
Where the wishlist began

04–13 **THE DRINKS**
Ten sketches, one imaginary bar

14 **INK / WASH**
On drawing for no grand reason

15 **SIX YEARS LATER**
A little look back

16 **THE LAST WORD**
And perhaps a cocktail

ORIGINAL ARTWORK — INKTOBER 2020 / 10 SELECTED WORKS

I / THE WISHLIST

There were many things *to wish for.*

Apparently, mine included a rather impressive cocktail menu.

It was October 2020. Going out for a leisurely drink wasn't quite the straightforward affair it used to be. Somewhere between staying indoors, occupying myself and contemplating what I would rather be doing, a cocktail wishlist began to take shape.

So, naturally, I painted it.

The drawings became part of my Inktober explorations: a glass of wine with cheese, an Old Fashioned, an Espresso Martini, and whatever else might have looked particularly good on a drinks menu.

There was no special occasion. That, perhaps, was the occasion.

THE ART OF WANTING A COCKTAIL

01

THE FIRST POUR

Wine & Cheese



THE NOT-SO-SOBER SKETCHBOOK

An excellent pairing. A glass of red, a wedge of cheese, and the sort of afternoon that could wait until the world reopened.

A CLASSIC WISH

Old Fashioned Whiskey



02 / 10

A bottle tipped in anticipation, a glass waiting below. There is something wonderfully optimistic about drawing the pour before the first sip.

03

SOMEWHERE BLUE

Blue Margarita



THE NOT-SO-SOBER SKETCHBOOK

Cool blues, an impossible little holiday, a wedge of lime. A change of scenery, served on paper.

A LONG WAY FROM HOME

Long Island Iced Tea



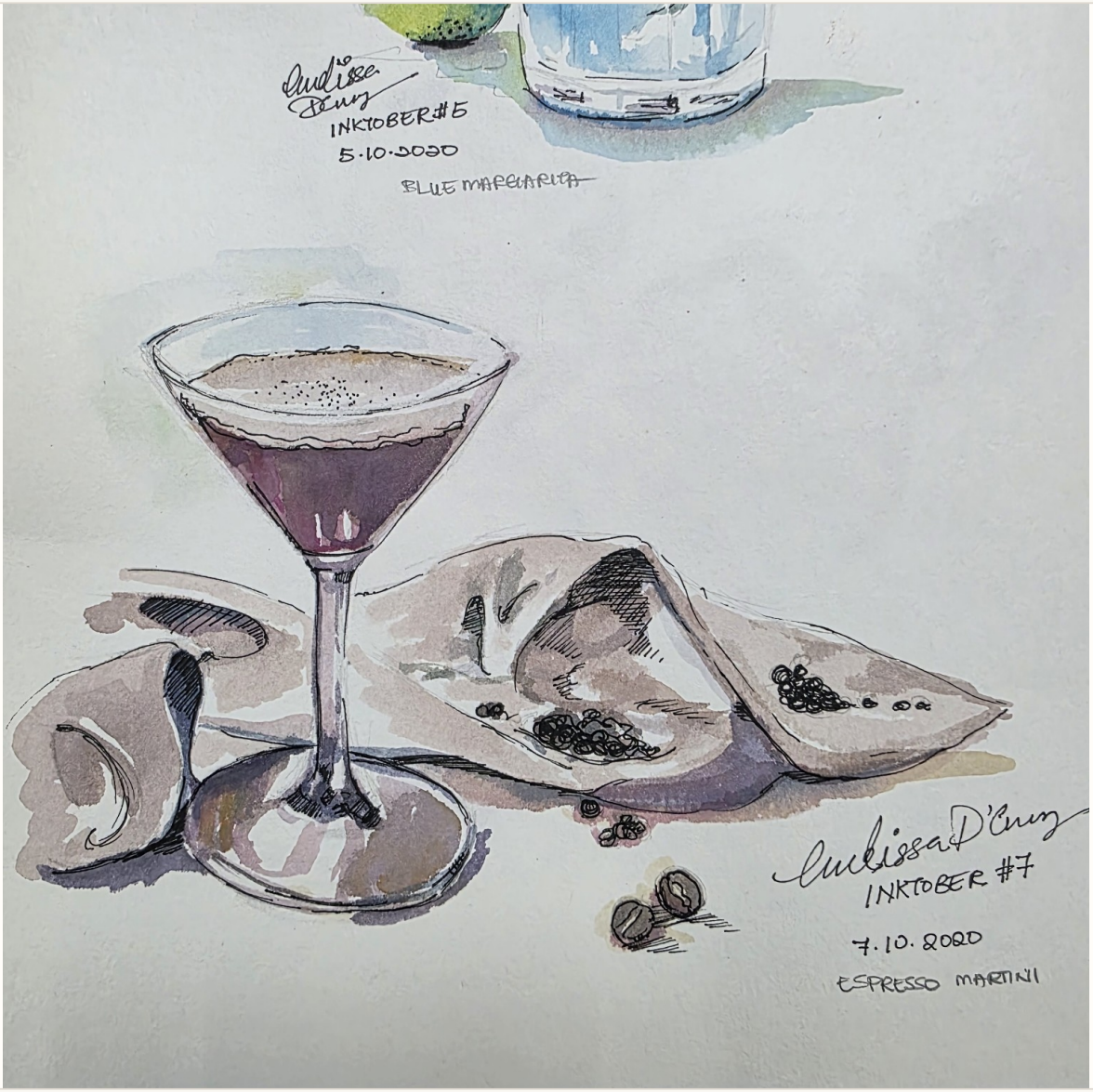
04 / 10

Tall, iced, and generously garnished. Apparently, the lockdown drinks menu was not going to be modest.

05

AFTER HOURS

Espresso Martini



THE NOT-SO-SOBER SKETCHBOOK

For the hours when coffee needed a costume change. Caffeinated sophistication, without leaving the sketchbook.

WARM WISHES

Mulled Wine



06 / 10

Cinnamon, citrus, and star anise: a cosy evening in two glasses. You can almost smell the spices.

07

A NIGHT IN

Soju Night



THE NOT-SO-SOBER SKETCHBOOK

A green bottle, a little glass, and the promise of a different sort of evening - imagined in ink.

AN ACCIDENT ON PAPER

Spilled Martini



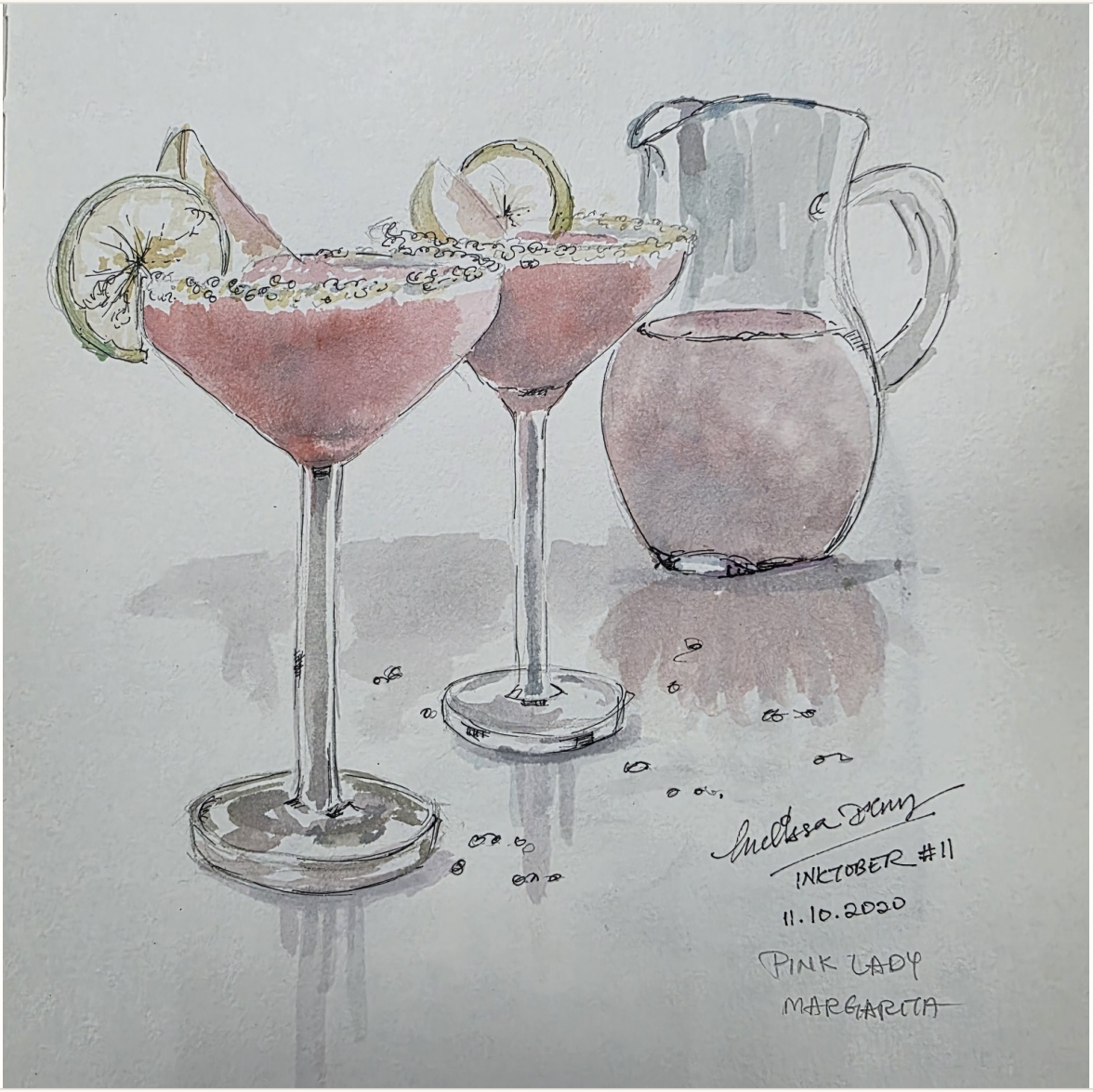
08 / 10

One drink did not survive the imaginary party. At least no actual martini was wasted in the making of this sketch.

09

PINK THINKING

Pink Lady Margarita



THE NOT-SO-SOBER SKETCHBOOK

A blush of pink, citrus, and the charming extravagance of a proper cocktail. If only the bar had been open.

THE LAST ROUND

Brandy



10 / 10

A warm amber wish to finish the selection. A good glass to linger over, even when it exists only on paper.

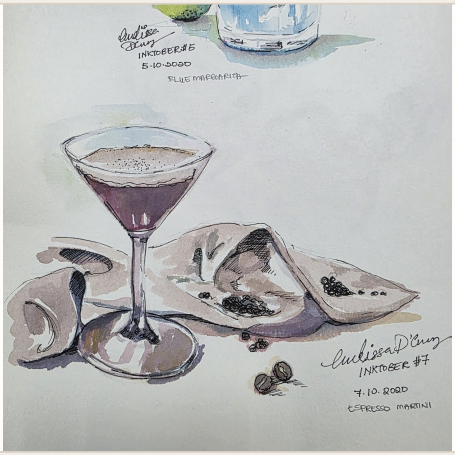
II / BEHIND THE SKETCHES

Ink. Wash. *Wish.*

The idea was simple: let the ink find the shape and the watercolour follow. The transparency of a glass, the colours in a drink, a few reflections and a garnish or two were enough to keep me entertained.

I wasn't interested in photographic perfection. I liked the stray marks, the uneven edges, and the way a little colour could escape the drawing altogether.

That is why the original dates, signatures and handwritten titles remain here. They belong to the memory of making them.





III / FROM THE ARCHIVES

Six years *later.*

The wishlist stayed on paper. The pleasure of making it stayed with me.

Looking at the sketches today, I find myself enjoying their imperfections. The lines wander, colours collect in unexpected places and large stretches of paper remain completely untouched.

What began as a desire for a nice cocktail became a rather cheerful visual record of a strange year. It reminds me that creativity does not always need a grand purpose or a perfectly thought-out plan.

Sometimes all it takes is a little longing, a sketchbook, and a very good sense of humour.

HERE'S TO THE DRINKS

THAT NEVER QUITE MADE IT TO THE TABLE.

MELISSA ANNETTE D'CRUZ / NOVEMBER 2026

THE UNPOURED COLLECTION

BEAMUSE DESIGNS / FROM THE ARCHIVES



In the end,
the glasses may have been empty.

The sketchbook wasn't.

10 ORIGINAL SKETCHES / INKTOBER 2020

EDITORIAL RETROSPECTIVE / 2026

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