

Interview with Northern Light, Johis

This year's Northern Light, Johis, has a very busy schedule, but we managed to sneak in some questions.

I know you're busy preparing for events and such, but hopefully you have time for a few questions.

To start off with, welcome to NordicFuzzCon! Have you been here before? Had you even heard of us before?

A: Absolutely! I've attended a couple of times before and really enjoyed it every single time! I think 2017 was the first time I attended NFC, and then a few times after that, until I was so busy I had a general break from attending cons and then there were none for a few years.

Now, it's obvious from looking at your artwork that it would take a tremendous amount of time to get to your level, even if one had a great deal of natural talent to start with. When and how did you get your start?

A: I've always enjoyed drawing and scribbling, be it on paper or the wall with crayons, from what I've heard, oops. But it was when I was around 13 that I really started to push my skills and try to improve. I managed to make my way online to some art sites such as DeviantArt and found so much amazing art, I just thought I want to be able to do this too! More about this in my panel too :D

What came first, your contact with the furry fandom, or your interest in art? And how did you learn about the fandom?

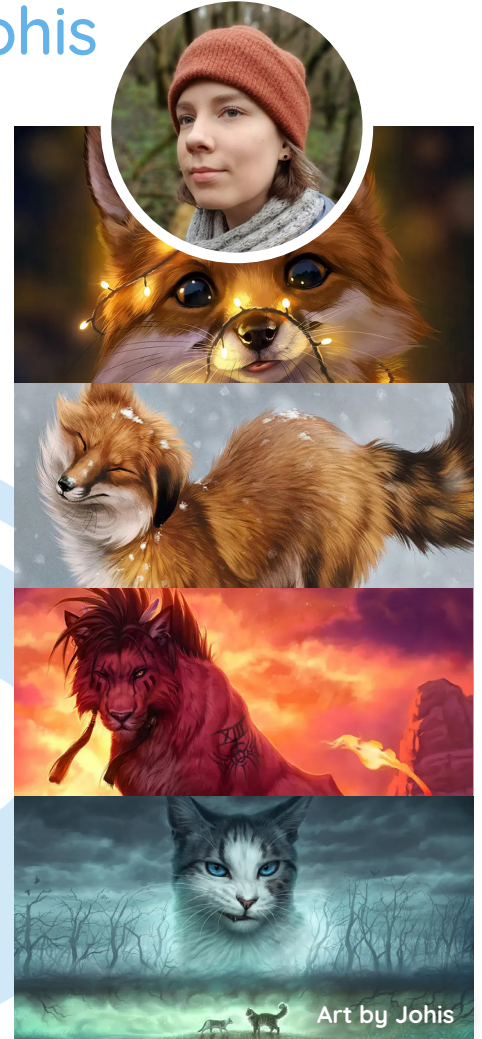
A: My interest in art came first, but the main subject I've always wanted to draw the most was animals. I did doodle some anthropomorphic creatures too but had no idea of the fandom existing. If I'm honest I can't even pinpoint when I first found out about the fandom! A lot of the inspiring art I found online happened to be anthro themed and made by furry artists. When I eventually happened to stumble upon places like FurAffinity and VCL I was just like, oh, there's entire websites and a fandom for anthropomorphic animals. Cool!

Do you have any particular artists that have been role models to you, that have mentored you in some way, or whose styles have simply inspired you?

A: Totally! I haven't had any personal mentoring, I just intensely stared and studied many others' art. Honestly there's too many to list, but people from the fandom especially whose art has been a big influence me from the start have been names like Balaa, Kyoht, Khaosdog, Hibbary, Kenket... I could spend all day listing but there's a couple. Nowadays it's so easy to discover a lot of great artists online too which is great.

After the convention, many of us suffer from post-convention depression, PCD. Is that something you encounter, and how do you deal with it?

A: For sure. I just normally get on with every day stuff and have to keep working, so it gets me settled back pretty quick. But also sleeping. Lots of sleeping does the trick too. I'm sure doing so much and feeling physically tired doesn't help either, so it's important to rest as much as you (hopefully) can.



Is there anything you would like to tell our readers?

A: Excited to be here again and see some familiar faces too, after such a long break from cons. Hope to see you at my panels!

I hope you'll get some time to yourself in between official engagements, and once again, welcome to NFC!

(Interview by Dook)



NOSTRADAMUS' NFC CHESS CHALLENGE

Want to practice your chess skills?

What the Fuzz newspaper's very own chess cat Nostradamus is throwing down the gauntlet. Anybody who wishes to join him in a friendly game of chess during the convention, please scan the QR Code or use link above and join the Telegram group for more details.

Fire all broadside guns.



Meet Skåne

In the early noon of Tuesday, three buses embarked on a long awaited excursion around the Malmö area. Ever since last year, a brewery, a toy museum, and a gourmet restaurant have been waiting for busloads of furies to crowd them. The first stop for bus A was the toy museum. Curated by a single family collecting toys for over four decades, the museum seems small at first, but offers room after room of nostalgia. A lot of visitors were mesmerised by the model railroad while others spent time going over the hundreds of Barbie dolls to find specific outfits. In the basement this writer's favourite area could be found, the lego section. Several of the sets displayed brought back fond memories.

After the museum there was time for a quick stop to visit some royal horses, it was off to Gastro Gaspari

for lunch. A delicious veal patty served with mashed potatoes, peas, browned butter and the Swedish favourite lingon went down well with the crowd. The expected highlight was the brewery at the end of the line, and despite hard competition from the toy museum, Perfectly Squared delivered. We sampled 5 different beers and learned about how different food pairings could affect the flavour. Personally I favoured the cheese on offer to the beers, but it was interesting to sample the various types and taste how different methods and ingredients made for different results. As the mood around the table rose, the excursion was rounded off by mingling around the tasting bar, inspecting the brewery itself, and playing pinball. And most importantly, petting the dog. (Leophan & Bakari)



Photos by Emphy

Mice to Meet You

Every year at NordicFuzzCon we like to give our Gold Sponsors a little gift as a thank-you, often a gift in-keeping with the current year's theme. For the year 2023 and the Toytown theme, there was only one logical conclusion: Lego figurines of our beloved mascots, Mausie and Iris.

But the task of taking something as endlessly versatile as Lego and creating something suitable for NordicFuzzCon fell to one person: Hassel Wolf. He and Alida, a colleague on Swebrick (a design website) spent roughly 60hrs together designing both figurines. He said that it wasn't an easy task, as every single brick had to be in exactly the right place and there was no room for shortcuts or half measures. Apparently this was the first ever such project he has undertaken, but the results don't look rushed or amateur. Even the custom-made instruction book looks as if it could have been printed professionally.

Hassel says that when creating a design in Lego, you start with the base and work from the ground up. When a sculptor carves out of stone or an artist paints, they often 'feel' the essence of the character they are depicting. Apparently the challenge was to capture the cheeky, cuddly nature of our dear Mausie and Iris in immobile plastic.

Every single individual brick was ordered en masse in crates and then had

to be added to each kit bag brick by brick. Some of the bricks came directly from the Lego company themselves, others had to be ordered from a specialist wholesale supplier Brickbank.

Occasionally, Hassel and Alida had to alter their designs when certain bricks were unavailable, but they persevered and together have created what I believe is one of our most charming Gold Sponsor gifts yet.

I had the pleasure of Mausie's company on the excursion today and asked him what he thought of his likeness in miniature. He held it up to my ear and it said "Squeak!" (Nostradamus)



DAILY TOY HIGHLIGHT



Since the 80s these floppy-eared puppies have brought joy to millions of children around the world, and been adopted into loving homes in more than 35 different countries. They're so lovable and huggable! (Rexam)



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Every day we will be showcasing our favourite tweet! Just use the hashtag #NFC2023 or tag @NordicFuzzCon and yours might be chosen!

