

A Letter to the World

Dear Creators, Dear Makers of Art, Craft, Assemblage, Gardens, and Cuisine.

For many of us in COVID-times, the need to create takes on a much more significant role. It becomes a sustainer of the soul, an escape into tranquility, including a desire to be far away from news of the coronavirus variants, and the current political divide that continues to baffle the mind.

My "Bestie" gnome was created in sheer bliss, away from this outside world, during the thaw of March 2021. Tired of stitching art quilts, a switch to a three-dimensional medium was refreshing to my brain. Bestie was modeled from Sculptey Clay, and baked in the oven at 275 degrees for fifteen minutes. Emerging at thirteen inches high, her smile was intoxicating.

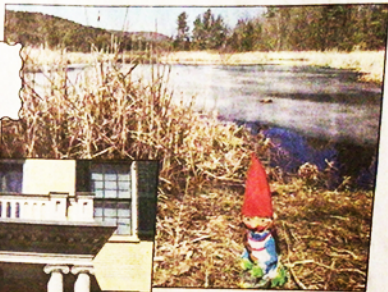
What's funny about Bestie is, she wanted to travel to all the outdoor spaces I love. And so began our photographic journey for one year, in all seasons. Was Bestie my secret alter ego, emerging from a lockdown, happy to engage the world again?

A traveling gnome was beautifully portrayed in the 2001 French romantic comedy *Amélie*. The movie explores the intricacies of French culture in a magical way, and its famous soundtrack by Yann Tiersen can stay in your head and linger. Perhaps this was buried in my subconscious, only to reappear as Bestie gnome, many years later.

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