

# Maria Carluccio

DOBBS FERRY, USA

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When illustrators are asked why they entered the profession, they often relate stories of their childhood. Maria Carluccio, whose creative pursuits have roots in her early development, is no exception.

“When I was young I loved to paint, draw and just play with all sorts of art materials—anything I could get my hands on. My mother was an artist, too. She encouraged me by putting me in various drawing and painting classes. I can remember when I first discovered that I was able to draw somewhat realistically. From that point on I knew I was hooked. I always thought that it was cool to be able to draw what you could see, but it was magical to be able to draw what you could feel or imagine.”

“I’ve always loved to play with colour, shape and line. Most children have this curiosity and some never lose that sense of wonder. Playing is how we learn, as both children and adults. I try to approach my art that same way: enjoy the ride, let it take you to the places you need to explore. Whether it’s a personal painting, an image for a children’s book or a design for a quilt, I always want it to be infused with the random discoveries I make along the way.”

Maria is in turn nurturing creativity (and the art of the critique) in her eight-year-old daughter. “She loves to tell me what’s working and what’s not, in both my art and just about everything else in my life. She has pretty good feedback in general. Recently we did a few art pieces together that my client bought as canvas reproduction images.”

## THE ASSIGNMENT

*While imagining your dream of having your own brand of stationery, use your inspirations (nature, pods, flowers, colour, texture) to express your creativity and sense of style.*



PHOTOS BY ELLEN CRANE PHOTOGRAPHY

