

**SARA JAPANWALLA, 26,
ILLUSTRATOR, FROM THE UK**

How long have you been an illustrator?

I've been doing it for three years but have been drawing and into art for most of my life.

How did you break into the industry?

Ever since art college I've always loved fashion illustration and I found that to be my strength. I worked on making a website for myself and I appeared on a few blogs and displayed my work in art exhibitions. I also entered as many contests as possible to get exposure.

What was the most difficult thing about getting recognised?

I found it difficult at first because doing fashion illustration commercially is quite a new thing in Dubai but eventually it turned to my advantage because people were intrigued and later found use for my work.

Do you have any exciting projects coming up?

Yes I have a children's book releasing early next year in America which I'm very excited about. It's called

Princess Charleston and the Isle of Palms and it was a very fun project.

What has been the highlight of your career?

I really enjoyed doing live painting for a contest in Mercato Mall. Six local artists from Dubai were shortlisted and we had to paint in front of a live audience and I found it a very exciting and energetic experience.

What has been your greatest achievement?

Seeing my illustrations in print for the first time and my name on a front cover of a book felt like a real sense of achievement. It was a project for a book entitled *More Bassetshire Diaries* and the author David Micheal Prosser needed comical illustrations for each chapter he did.

What is your dream?

I would love to move to Paris for a while and continue my art over there. Some day, I'd love to do a huge mural or have my illustrations blown up onto a billboard. It would be amazing to do illustrations for a major luxury company like Bloomingdale's or Tiffany & Co. I like to dream big! ▶