

## Thought Bubble Application 2021

Hello there!

My name is Rach and I am the illustrator, designer and everything else behind the scenes at Bird House Press. I love drawing colourful, happy characters, and developing exciting new products that I sell through my website and Etsy shop.

I have always loved being creative, making and learning new things. Ask my parents and they will tell you I was always making "comics" as soon as I could hold a crayon (and by comics I mean I was drawing on squares of paper and stapling them together!), and I've always enjoyed trying new hobbies, from basic bead jewellery, or watercolours to photography, including developing my own films and prints. Whatever it is - I like to be learning or doing something creative.

Working full time at the "day job" means that I look forward to the times when I can be creative. In 2010 I found about the print studio 'Hot Bed Press' in Salford and a love for screen-print was formed - not just for the messy, creative fun it was, but for how it brought me back to drawing and illustrating.

One of my favourite illustrations that I screen-printed, was the character 'Space Cat'. The print was a firm favourite at the arts markets I was attending at the time, and I adore him as a character, he has a backstory and everything! I loved finding new products to put SpaceCat on, and in doing so created my first character 'range', which went down well at the craft fairs I attended too.

Although I am no longer screenprinting - I am still illustrating and producing cute characters which I then produce as a range of items, that you will be able to see on my website (link in my application).

When the coronavirus pandemic arrived in 2020, I lost my creative 'mojo' for a little while. I had ideas, but nothing that properly inspired me to create. I knew I wanted a project that I could focus on, something I could develop.

It wasn't until my wife and I went on holiday for a week in August, that I sketched out a little character that would soon become known as 'A ghost called Hex'.

He was the cute character I had been wanting to find and I knew the project I wanted to create for him - a comic!

Since then, I have been working on creating the backstory for Hex, and the comics that go with that. I am enjoying the characters I am creating in his world and bringing them to life. My aim is to produce these comics as web-zines, and then collate into a self-published collection.

As we reached Lockdown 3.0 at the end of 2020, I decided that I wanted to produce a smaller comic /zine, to see what Hex would look like in print, and this is where 'A Ghostie's guide to a: Pandemic' came from.

At the time of submitting this application, I am still working on the pages of the zine, but you will find images of this on my instagram, (also linked in my application), but I am hopeful to have it in a physical form for the start of March.

I have ideas for other zines for Hex that I would like to produce as well, which is what I would bring to Thought Bubble if I was successful in my application.

I feel that the Space Cat illustrations would fit in well on my Thought Bubble table - as well as the other illustrations and products that I have produced. I know from art / craft fairs I have been to (as a seller and a buyer) that a range of items at different price points works well, so I would ensure this would be the same for my table at Thought Bubble.

Ultimately, although I have sold at art / craft fairs - I am new as a seller to comic conventions, but I would love the opportunity to exhibit at Thought Bubble. I loved the online convention this year, and I found many new illustrators to purchase work from and support. I would love that to happen for Hex too - that I can 'launch' his comics at a well-established convention.

Thank you,

Rach