



Welcome to the Monday #MorningCrackle



I've been blown away by the amount of innate creativity that has surfaced for so many people throughout the lockdowns of the pandemic. From what I observed, as soon as people were relieved from the time-sucking distraction of... oh, you know, *earning a living* - this really interesting opportunistic *space* opened up for a lot of us that has been highly reflective of not only our innate creative gifts and strengths, but of our astounding resiliency as a species to flow and adapt in the face of rapid change in so many unique and interesting ways. Grumble Farm as you follow along with it today is my own personal experience and expression of this process, and in regards to the work I do in the world and earning a living from it, I've become *pretty damn invested* in doing whatever it takes to never have to return to any sort of pre-Covid "normal" ever again. Although I'm not too sure what this "new normal" actually is quite yet, what I do know for sure is that the old normal was an absolute grind for me, and I don't think it would be too off-base to say that there are likely a few of you out there that may be feeling something similar.

With the theme of our amazingly inspiring creative capabilities at the forefront of my mind this past week, this newsletter has crafted itself to become something of a celebration of the creative process - whether through traditional art and illustration, writing & storytelling (it me!), awe-inspiring photography (it Jesse!), the creation of lovingly & intentionally prepared food in the kitchen (hay hay, #ChefJonie), or even the step-by-step process of bringing a roaring fire to life



I really hope you enjoy the many ways that this week's Morning Crackle has manifested ✨
Happy reading!

Happy Birthday, Jonas - Light of my Whole Damn Life

THANK-YOU to everyone who wished this special little dude a happy birthday on his special day this weekend, and to the handful of people who sent both birthday cards & gifts to our inbox & P.O. box!!! We have been flooded with love over the past few days in praise of Jonas' mere existence, and I am so grateful for all of your kind words and the many conversations that were inspired from them. I am one lucky pug mama to be sharing this life with a pug like Jonas (Fern and Ivy are VERY special to me too, just to be sure 😊), and I absolutely love being able to - in turn - share our journey with all of you. 💙 #JonasForever



Jonas' Birthday Portrait by Sketch of Pets



A Grumble Farm follower named Stacey Felberbaum - also known as [Sketch of Pets](#) on Instagram - recently sent us this custom, hand-drawn portrait that she created all the way from freaking **SWITZERLAND!** Once I opened it, I seriously couldn't even believe what I was looking at - the detail! The accuracy! The TALENT! 🥰



Obviously, as soon as I received Jonas' portrait in the mail, I HAD to reach out to Stacey to ask if I could feature her in The Morning Crackle - what she took the time to do for me out of the pure & wholesome goodness of her pug-lovin' heart warmed me up from the inside out. THANK-YOU, Stacey, for this wonderfully personal & heartwarming gift 💙

Meet the Grumble Farm-ily: Stacey Felberbaum & April from Sketch of Pets

Stacey
Sketch OF Pets



Stacey lives in Switzerland with her adorable little puggy girl, April. She graduated from the ECAV Art School in Valais, Switzerland, and has 15 years of experience as graphic designer. Stacey has a very deep & special connection with animals, which can be visibly seen in her ability to create both wild animal & pet portraits that capture the heart & soul of whatever she is illustrating. Stacey uses textured paper with Caran D'Ache colors and water as she sits in front of bright, open windows for peaceful inspiration - ahhh, the simple life 💕

Because Stacey is one of “those” people - you know, one of those incredible *pug people* - ***she has offered a 20% discount on all pet portrait services for anyone who mentions Grumble Farm when they reach out to her!*** We will also be hosting a giveaway on our IG page in the not-so-distant future for a custom pet portrait by Sketch of Pets, so keep your eyes on our posts & future newsletters for the contest announcement 💕

You can find Stacey on Instagram [@sketch_of_pets](#), via her website at www.sketchofpets.com, and on Facebook by clicking [here](#) 🐾



YouTube Tutorial: How to Start a Fire in a Wood Stove



Those of you following along closely with our IG stories are most likely pretty intimately familiar with our morning, afternoon, and evening crackles by now (it goes without saying that these fires continue to be the inspiration for writing these newsletters 😊). As a couple of textbook introverts sustained by hygge vibes, we feel super lucky to be able to heat our apartment with wood stove heat, and I've had a few requests over the winter so far to share a tutorial on how to pull it off.

Since Jesse was the one who taught me how to do this (and is always the one to start them for us first thing in the morning after rolling out of bed), he quickly grabbed the reins on this one and set to work this past weekend filming & editing a SUPER FUN how-to video on his YouTube channel that shares his own step-by-step process for how to build & start a roaring wood stove fire.

You can watch the tutorial on his YouTube channel [HERE](#) 🔥

*Fresh from the Grumble Kitchen: Carrot Cake Pupcakes by
Chef Jonie*



Jonie and I had a business meeting this week, and decided that moving forward, we are going to be sharing our Grumble Kitchen adventures directly onto our blog & sharing new recipe posts with you here in the newsletter every Monday morning 😊

I've been going *on and on* about these little mini Pupcakes that Jones & I made together for his birthday this year, inspired by Kelsie & Cookie from [The Itsy Bitsy Kitchen](#). We were actually pretty stoked on how easy and fun they were to make & how well they turned out - check out our very first recipe blog about them below 🐾



SUN, JAN 17

Recipe: Carrot Cake Pupcakes

It was Jonie's 11th birthday on January 16th, and to celebrate, we spent the afternoon baking these super adorbs Carrot Cake Pupcakes for his special day



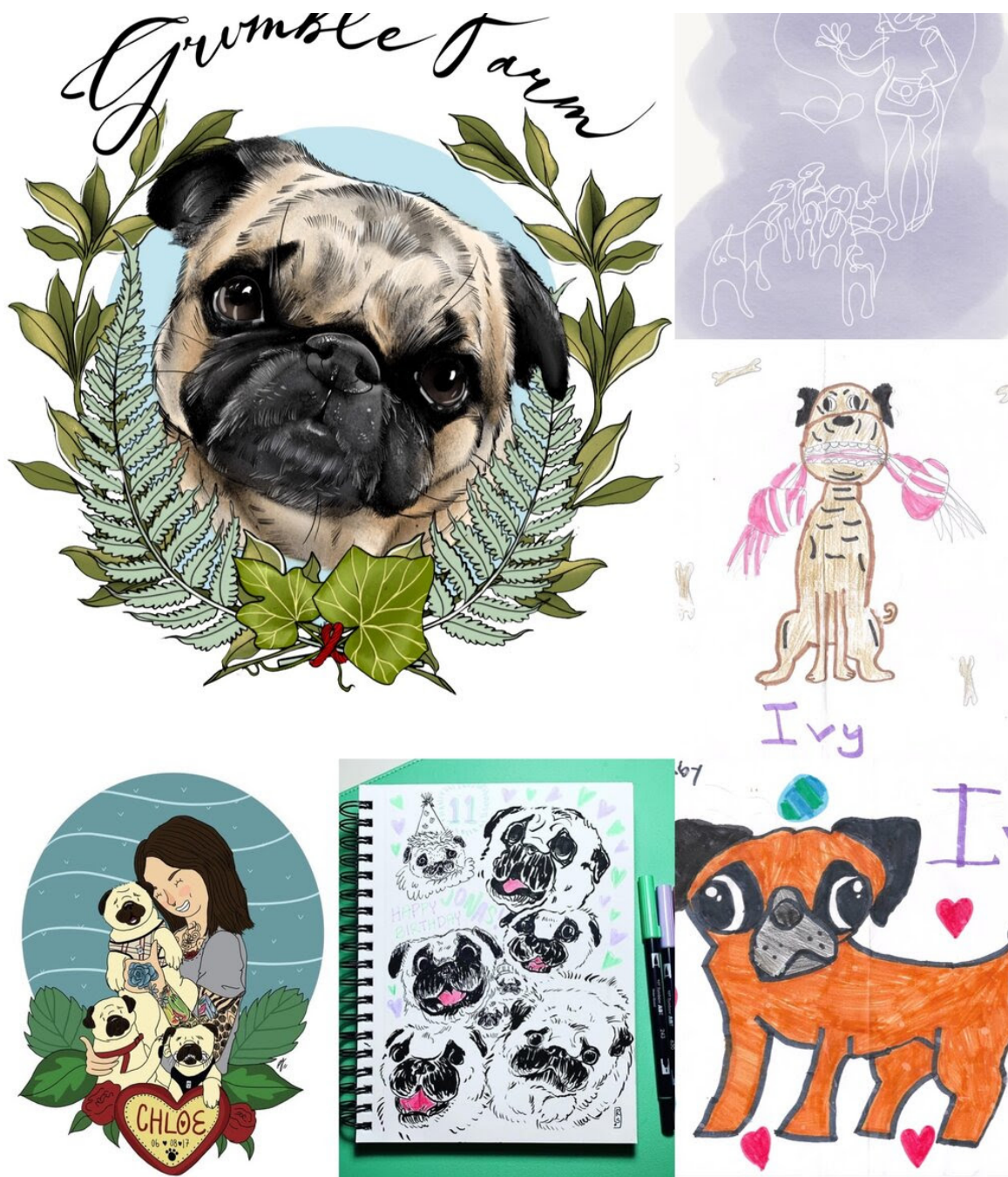
[Read More](#)

Grumble Farm Memories: A Collection of “Fan” Artwork from Over the Years

Putting together this collection of photos made me so happy. Over the years, Grumble Farm's friends & followers have sent us the most amazing artwork of Jonas, Fern, and Ivy - pieces that I will treasure forever!

Clockwise from the top:

- Digital Illustration, Jonas ~ [Shae Motz](#)
- Continuous Line Drawing, Grumble Walkies ~ [Kayla Mulcahy](#)
- Ivy's Rope by Olivia (9 years old)
- Ivy by Ruby (6 years old)
- Happy Birthday Jonas Doodles ~ [Art by Rachels](#)
- Cartoon Portrait of the Grumble & I ~ [Art by Rachels](#)



Phew! Hot dang, you made it. Have an incredible week, everyone! I'm registered in a Zoom class this Wednesday about writing e-mail newsletters, but I can't decide at this point if I should be taking notes, or co-teaching the class. What do you think? 😊

Pugs and kisses,

Brandy AND the Gumble




The most regretful people on earth are those who felt the call to creative work, who felt their own creative power restive and uprising, and gave to it neither power nor time. ~Mary Oliver