

# THE COMMUTER

YOUR LOCAL IN-FLIGHT MAGAZINE

ST BARTH COMMUTER MAGAZINE #06





# St Barth IN LIGHT, COLOR, AND TRANSPARENCY

SAINT-BARTH EN LUMIÈRES, COULEURS  
ET TRANSPARENCE



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For several years now, Julie Fumat — also known as Moon St Barth—has been capturing the essence of Saint Barthélemy through water and pigment, in a delicate play of shadow and light. We sat down with the artist for a conversation.

Author / Auteur Olivier Aussedat

**The Commuter - How long has Saint Barthélemy been the focus of your artistic creations?**

**Moon St Barth** - I first arrived in Saint Barthélemy in 2013 to join my husband. That's when I discovered the island's beauty, which I captured for several years through photography, especially with numerous series on Grande Saline and its ever-changing nature. In 2020, I was fortunate to be entrusted with the artistic direction of the Discover Saint Barthélemy magazine. For my first issue, I wanted to include a beautiful map of the island, so I picked up my brushes again—and that's how my first map of Saint Barthélemy's districts was born.

**TC - You graduated from the Beaux-Arts in Paris and have worked as a graphic designer, web designer, and gallery curator. At what point in your artistic journey did watercolor become your medium of choice?**

**MSB** - While studying at the Beaux-Arts, I oscillated between two practices: acrylic painting and photography. I often combined the two in expressive collages. When I returned to painting in Saint Barthélemy, I was looking for a medium better suited to my environment, which was smaller than my previous studio. That's when I discovered watercolor, and I quickly became fascinated by it—this almost living medium that allows for a great deal of spontaneity. Watercolor captivates me with its transparency effects. It's a medium you must learn to tame, and even after years of practice, it still surprises you: water brings pigment to life, merges it, dissolves it.

**The Commuter - Depuis quand Saint-Barthélemy est-elle le sujet de vos créations ?**

**Moon St Barth** - Je suis arrivée pour la première fois à Saint-Barthélemy en 2013, pour rejoindre mon époux. C'est donc à cette époque que j'ai découvert la beauté de l'île, que j'ai immortalisée pendant plusieurs années en photographie avec de nombreuses séries sur la Grande Saline et sa versatilité. En 2020, j'ai eu la chance qu'on me confie la direction artistique du magazine Discover Saint-Barthélemy et, pour mon premier numéro, j'avais envie d'une jolie carte de l'île pour illustrer le magazine. J'ai donc repris mes pinceaux et c'est ainsi qu'est née ma première carte des Quartiers de Saint-Barthélemy.

**TC - Diplômée des Beaux-Arts de Paris, graphiste, web designer, galeriste... À quel moment de votre parcours artistique l'aquarelle est-elle devenue votre médium de prédilection ?**

**MSB** - Lorsque j'étudiais aux Beaux-Arts, j'oscillais entre deux pratiques: la peinture acrylique et la photographie. Il m'arrivait souvent de mêler les deux, dans des collages expressionnistes. Lorsque j'ai repris mes pinceaux à Saint-Barthélemy, je cherchais une technique plus appropriée à mon environnement, moins spacieux que mon précédent atelier. J'ai alors découvert l'aquarelle et je me suis très vite prise au jeu de cette matière presque vivante, qui laisse une place folle au hasard. L'aquarelle me fascine par ses jeux de transparence. C'est une matière qu'il faut apprivoiser et qui, même avec des années de pratique, réserve sans cesse des surprises puisque l'eau fait vivre le pigment, le fusionne, le dissout.

Illustration de Pelican Beach disponible à la Space Gallery.

1. Portrait avec Illustration de Gustavia disponible à la Space Gallery. 2. Plan réalisé pour le Barthélémy.  
Photos credit: © July On The Moon



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**TC - Could you tell us more about your painting technique?**

**MSB** - I always start with a very traditional approach to painting. Watercolor requires patience, as shapes are built up layer by layer, moving from light to dark tones. This is how shadows and light are created. Once the illustrations are complete, I scan them and refine them depending on the project. Some, like the maps, can be made up of dozens of different watercolors. For others, I incorporate photography or subtle texture overlays — often barely perceptible but adding a new dimension to the image. I now consider myself more of a mixed media artist than strictly a watercolorist. My creations take several days to complete, sometimes even weeks for the most complex maps.

**TC - Where can people (re)discover your work?**

**MSB** - All of my work is available on my website. I'm also part of the artist catalog at Space Gallery St Barth in Gustavia, where you'll find an exclusive collection of my pieces titled St Barth Watercolor. I've also collaborated with several prestigious establishments like Eden Rock, Hotel Christopher, and Le Fouquet's Saint Barth, which offer my fine art prints as well as unique items—like two custom puzzles available at Eden Rock. I'm incredibly grateful for all these amazing opportunities and hope to continue spreading joy through my colorful illustrations. ■

MORE INFORMATION /  
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[www.moonstbarth.com](http://www.moonstbarth.com)



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3. Détails de l'élaboration de la carte de Martinique. 4. Carte illustrée de la Martinique.  
5. Puzzle Enfant - Collaboration Eden Rock. 6. Papeterie de mariage illustrée.  
Photos credit: © July On The Moon



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