

The Original Page



Watercolor pencils do not erase easily once they've been "watered." I was only able to remove the bright yellow after nearly half an hour of careful erasing and retouching with white pencil, and I nearly erased through the paper in my zeal. While I was at it, I corrected the eye size and shape and some other stuff. I had really muffed that drawing!

However, I'm really pleased with my kapok seed pod drawing, so...

the seeds in the kapok pod look like worms on a string



I'm always on the lookout for flat things I can glue into my journal, and the shiny little worm-like seeds connected to the pod by a little kapok string were perfect candidates.

The Process

Okay, this is kind of an embarrassing page. If you compare the photo of Tio Juan, the toucan, below, with my sketch of him above, you will notice a slight (I wish!) difference. This sketch bothered me



Tio Juan, the Yellow-ridged Toucan

for weeks, but I couldn't figure out what was wrong. None of the polite people who saw it at Otorongo had pointed out my giant blunder.

While looking up the specific name of the toucan, it finally dawned on me. The only thing I can say in my defense is that the Costa Rican toucans have bright yellow necks and that, in a major lapse of good judgment, I colored it from that memory instead of from my photo of Tio Juan. Yikes! Bad girl! Bad girl!

When I changed subjects below the toucan, I divided the sections with a leafy vine. Later I added the divider with curlicues to separate the kapok seedpod from the toucan. This now looks like a decent page to me

when I can at least momentarily forget my amazing faux pas with Tio Juan's color.

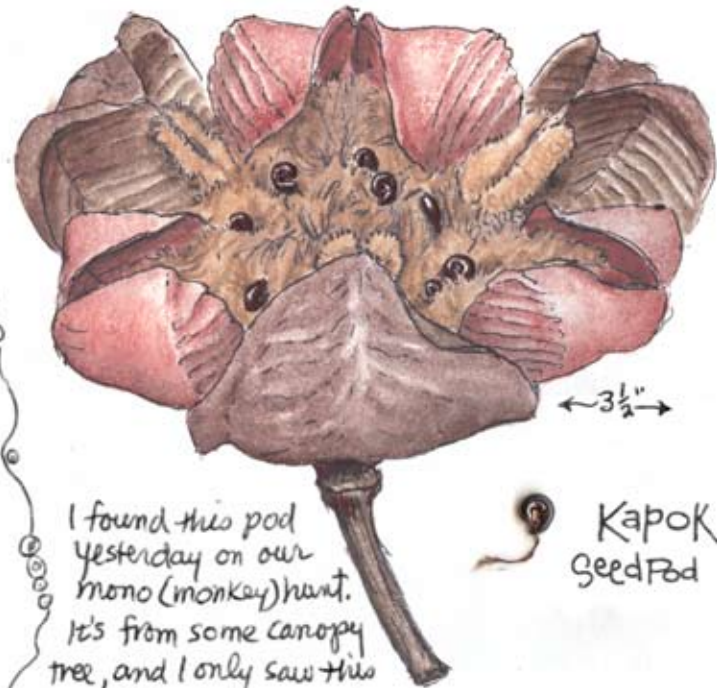
Since I've always prided myself on my accuracy and powers of observation, it serves me right ~ as they say, "pride goeth before a fall!"



This is Tio Juan. He's a Yellow-Ridged Toucan, and he lets everyone know who is boss - Tio Juan. He patrols the porch railing and the yard, and will peck and pinch toes, fingers, pant legs, or any other body part that amuses him. What a rascal!



I've been spending part of this afternoon teaching Osman how to draw. He's a quick study, and eager to learn, although we often have to pick our way through a bog of unfamiliar words: "shading" was hard, "fui" = pelos, "edge" was transmitted through gestures, as was "contour". But when we were done, it translated to "diversión" (fun)!



I found this pod yesterday on our mono (monkey) hunt. It's from some canopy tree, and I only saw this one. Today I discovered, upon closer inspection, that the seeds look like little shiny black worms tied on with a thread. I've glued one on above. They're nestled into a bed of fuzz, which got disarranged during its descent from on high, so it's a bit of a mystery to me.