

Watercolor Paintings by Evelyn Rogan

I created these drawings during McGill's East Africa Field Study Semester (MEAFSS) and my personal travels. The drawings are inspired by experiences in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda.



We found a chimpanzee family during a forest walk at Budongo Conservation Field Station, located in Budongo Forest, a tropical rainforest at the top of the Albertine Rift in Western Uganda. The family was grooming each other after spending the morning eating fruits from a large fig tree in the forest.



This drawing is inspired by a hike in the Usambara Mountains in Lushoto, Tanzania. The mountains were beautiful and lined with homes containing lush farms filled with diverse plants and trees.



This drawing is inspired by women tending to seaweed farms at low tide at Jambiani Beach in Unguja, Tanzania. The seaweed does not require land area or agricultural inputs, making it a climate resilient agricultural technique.



I was lucky to have the opportunity to stay with a Maasai family in Maji Moto, Kenya. We stayed with our homestay family in their traditional Manyatta home, which is designed to be semi-permanent so that they can move with their herd of cows to find grazing land and water. The blankets worn in the painting are called shukas and have patterns traditionally worn by Maasai people.



This drawing is inspired by fishing boats on a beach bordering Lake Victoria in Uganda. The boats line the beach during the day and are used at night for fishing.



This sketch is inspired by the kitenge fabric stores in Stone Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Zanzibar, Tanzania. This historic coastal trading town has a unique blend of Swahili, Arab, Persian, Indian, and European influences in its architecture, shown by its beautifully carved doors and maze of winding alleyways where you can find beautiful, vibrant stores, such as this one! Competent local tailors made beautiful clothes from the fabrics.