

This pin set debuted right before spring foraging season in 2020. It started just as me wanting to draw both a morel and a bundle of wild ramps as “forest spirits” or something similar. As I played around with how to use the features of these mushrooms and ramps to mimic human characteristics--I began to daydream a kind of folklorey-myth type story about the reason you can find them both around the same time and place in Appalachian forests. In this story, the mushrooms and the ramps are lesbian lovers who only get to spend time with each other when the temperature and sunlight is just right in the spring, and how they wait all summer, fall, and through winter’s cold just to spend a few months in the warm valleys of the Appalachian hills. It’s very romantic, very lovely to think about for me. There are so many heteronormative comparisons and representations drawn from nature, I like the idea of queering that right the fuck up and having this whole lesbian-fungi-flora forageable food myth. Maybe I’ll write into a poem one day!