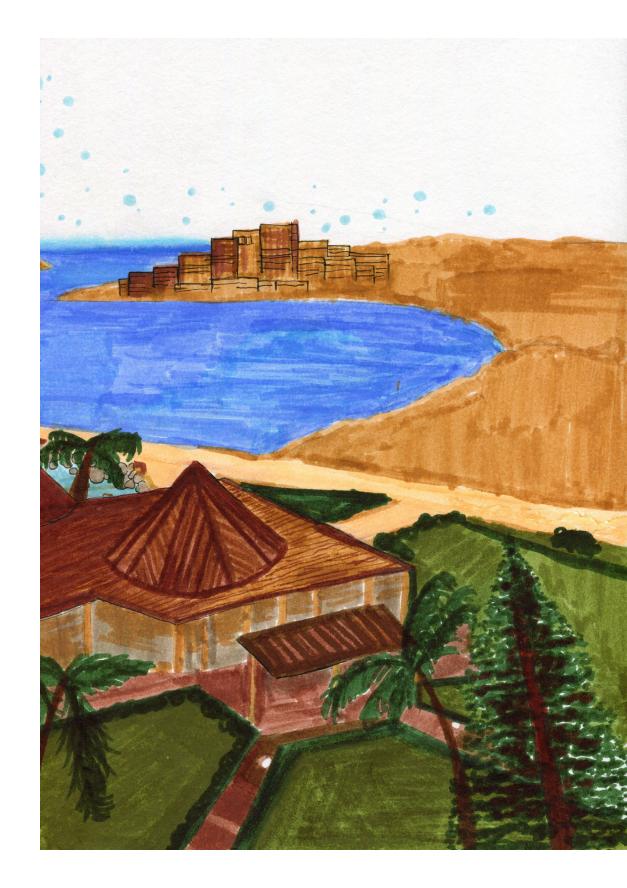


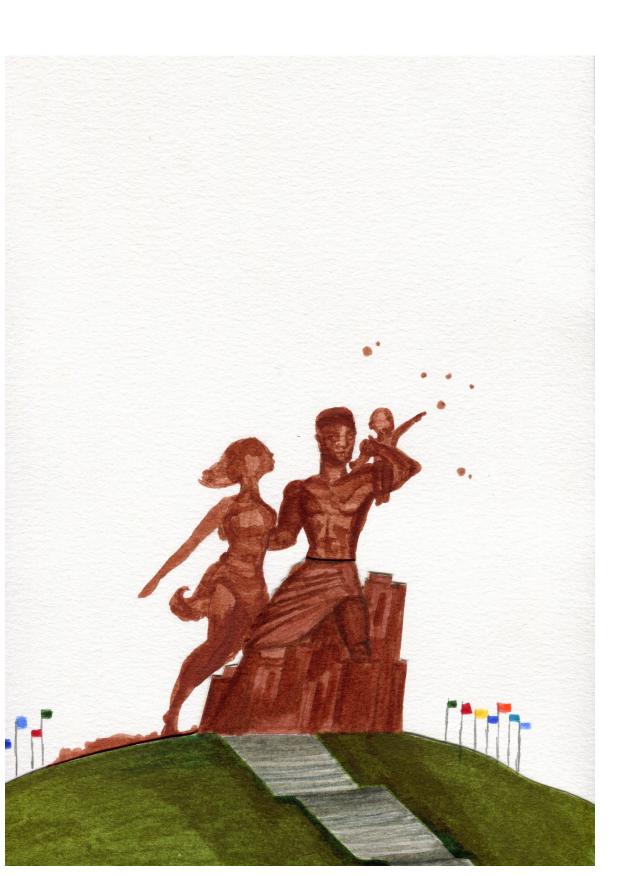
In the summer of 2019 I went on vacation to West Africa. It was the first time I went back home in more than a decade.

The first thing I saw in Senegal was my family which can be refreshing after such a long time of missing them.

The next day we went to a hotel to meet more family as some of them lived in a different city.

The hotel was beautiful and I saw the ocean close up for the first time when I stepped out onto the balcony, along with extremely tall palm trees.





Throughout the next week I went to various different places to capture the experience of being in Senegal.

The next place we went was the national monument in Dakar. I had to climb many steps to get to the top but the view was definitely worth It. The monument was gigantic and so magnificent I truly felt like an ant next to it.

I spent a couple of days with my family before we went to an amusement park in Dakar. I went with all my cousins and we rode the rides which we were enjoying and to my surprise I came across a peacock in the amusement park. It was a shade of deep blue with green iridescent feathers. This was probably my first time seeing one so close roaming freely.



We then went to another city to spend time with family. We stayed at my grandparents' house which was a White House with a red tiled roof, a terrace, and a thriving garden as a lawn.

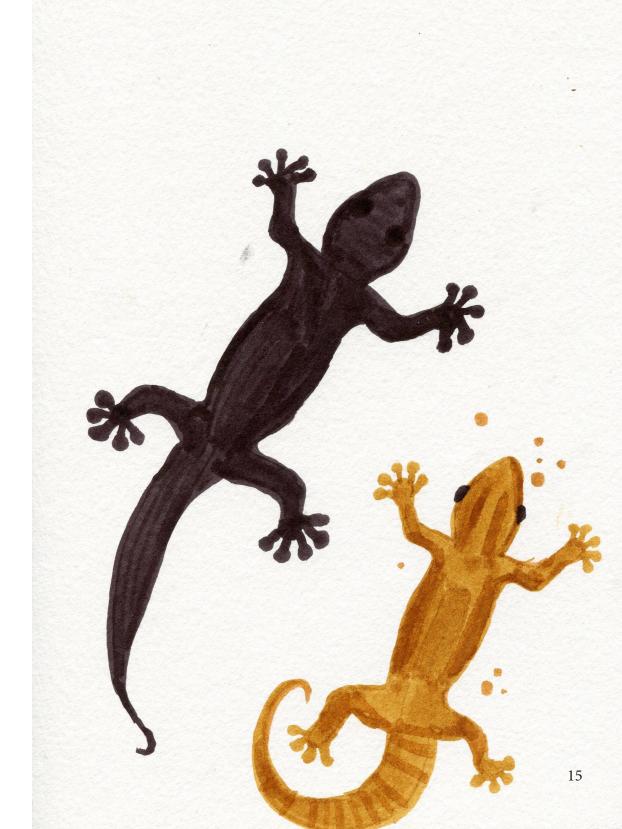
This garden had a couple date trees and pink flowers that lead to the front door.





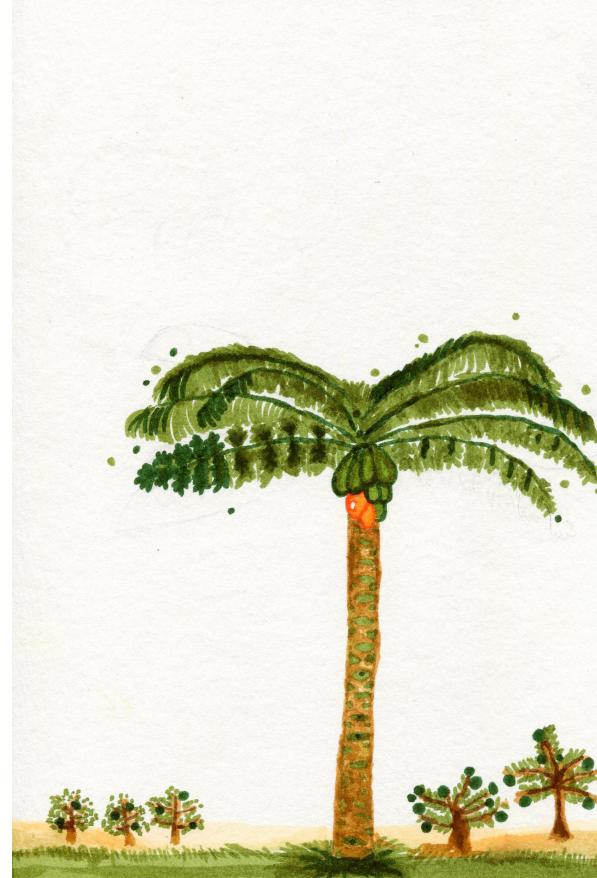
At the house I unpacked in one of the rooms and I saw and heard frogs in the bushes on the lawn.

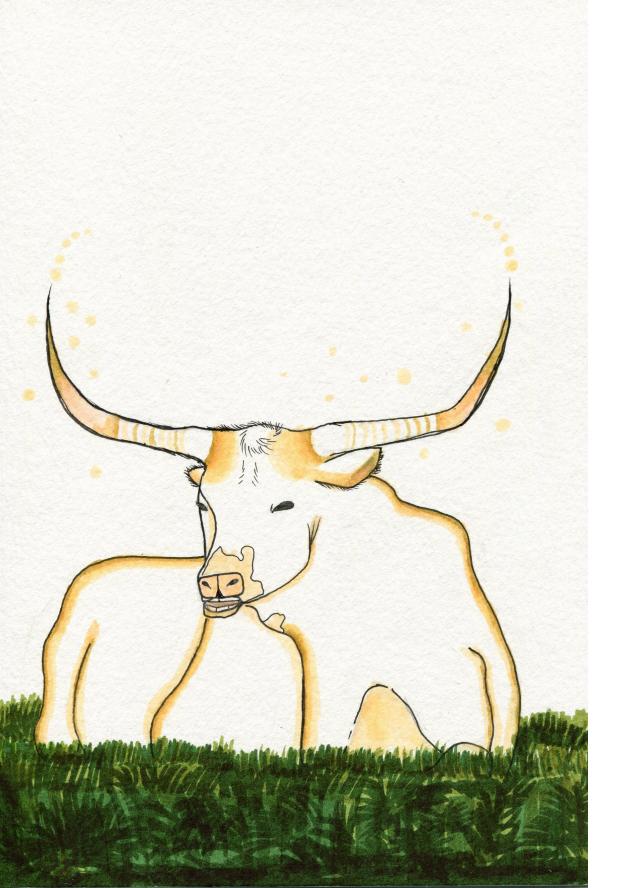
I also saw a small lizard climbing on the wall. From time to time we had stray felines in the lawn. They looked so relaxed when I saw them. One of the cats even had her babies in one of the bushes on our lawn.





I think a lot of the wildlife migrated to my grandparents' house because of its ecosystem while being the largest source of plentiful nature in the neighborhood. Which is really cool when you think about it. We went to my uncle's mango tree farm for a family reunion.





We got to spend time with our family and feed mangoes to the cows.

I loved every minute in Senegal and I really hope to go back soon.

Everyone needs time in their country even if you are still trying to figure out where you want to be.

I hope you could even visit Senegal one day, too.

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