



The grid

American photographer Claire Rosen explores our relationship with avian life in front of fantastical backdrops

Claire Rosen started photographing birds against decorative wallpapers as an avenue for her enchantment with the creatures. As she learned more about avian life over more than a decade, the project gained new meaning: what does it mean for humans to possess and dislocate such complex animals?

The result is her new compendium, *Birds of a Feather*, where the subjects stand resplendent, framed by man-made backdrops. "It's one way of inviting people to look more closely at birds," Rosen says. "I hope my photographs can be part of the conversation about how we can better preserve, protect and restore our natural environment." **Tara Joshi**



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The Simone Lia cartoon

CHRISTMAS PREPARATION

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I THOUGHT I'D BETTER START PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS.

YES, DON'T LEAVE IT TOO LATE.

THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO.

I'M HOSTING 15 COUSINS FOR 10 DAYS ...

I'VE GOT THREE SCHOOL CONCERTS AND AN OFFICE PARTY...

I NEED TO BUY AN OUTFIT FOR THAT, PLUS CHRISTMAS JUMPERS.

AND THEN THERE'S EVERYONE'S GIFTS

AND EMERGENCY GIFTS, CHARITY GIVING AND MAKING GINGER BREAD HOUSES.

I NEED 40 SPROUT STICKS FOR THE JENGA SPROUT TOWER.

WHAT'S A SPROUT TOWER?

IT'S A FAMILY TRADITION.

I MEANT THAT I NEED TO PREPARE MY HEART FOR CHRISTMAS

BY MAKING A QUIET STILL PLACE TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD.

OH.

I FEEL A BIT SILLY FOR REELING OFF MY TO DO LIST NOW.

MY TO DO LIST IS SIMILAR IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION.

IT'S A LOT.

IT REALLY IS.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A LOT.

IT IS A LOT.

I NEED TO MAKE A GIFT-OPENING SCHEDULE FOR MY COUSINS AND ALL THE KIDS. AND THEN -

MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS A TRULY MAGICAL TIME AND THE CHILDREN CAN SEE THAT I'M HAPPY

BECAUSE EXPERTS SAY THAT THAT IS ALL THEY NEED.

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