

This is **not** the artist. This is Marco.

This is an artist's guide on how to spot a con man at conventions...

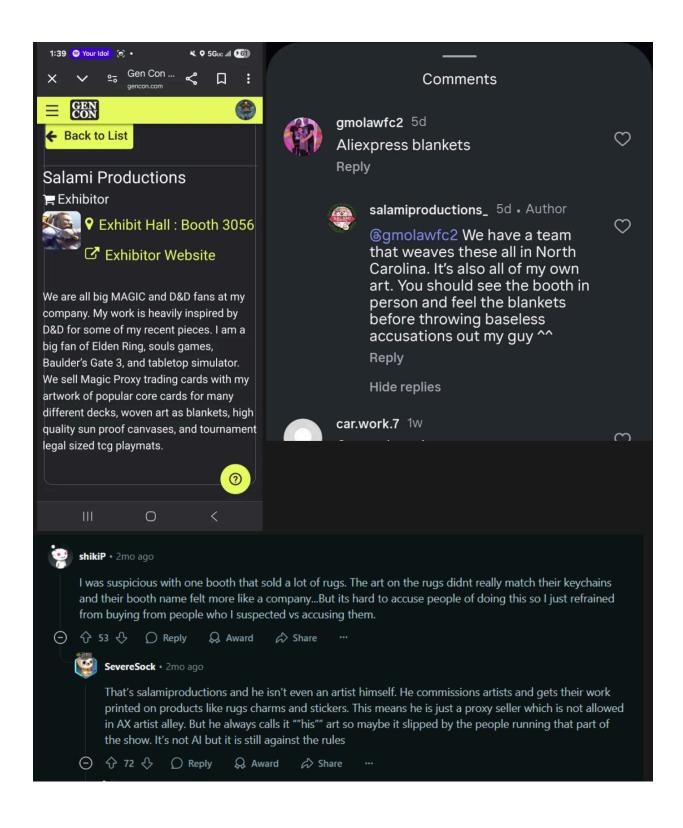


If you are a regular at conventions, I'm sure you've run into a booth named <u>Salami</u> <u>Productions</u>. This booth is run by a man named Marco Torrez. Marco regularly booths at Artist Alley, and has woven art displayed all over their booth alongside spicy stickers.

What you probably don't know is that Marco is not the artist. Marco is, however, a con artist. There has been growing sentiment against Marco internally within Artist Alley at conventions and his company, Salami Productions, for the following detailed reasons.

The Good: Finding The Real Artists

To apply for Artist Alley booths at conventions like Anime NYC, San Japan, and Kawaii Con (conventions Marco has sold at) the physical artists have to be there. Marco is not the artist. He is a proxy seller. Marco claims to make the art present at Salami Productions booths. That is what he tells convention coordinators, the internet, and attendees.



Unfortunately, Marco doesn't make the art, and cites himself as "Designer, Editor & Distributor". The bulk of Salami Productions comes from the following artists:

- Pamonya/Pamonhaart
- Reivash
- <u>Lirenya</u>
- Rinkosann
- Axelmane
- <u>N4te</u>
- Bayeuxman

All of these artists deserve to be properly credited. However, finding attribution and credit through Salami Productions is virtually non-existent.



WOVEN ART / PRINTS



\$280 EACH / \$30 EACH



NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS



CHAINSAW MAN



MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO



HELLDIVERS



INVADER ZIM



DRAGON BALL



HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE Runaway Love



YU-GI-OH!



BALDUR'S GATE 3

Shadowheart White

BAULDER'S GATE 3



BAULDER'S GATE 3



BALDUR'S GATE 3



ELDEN RING



MOANA



LILO & STITCH



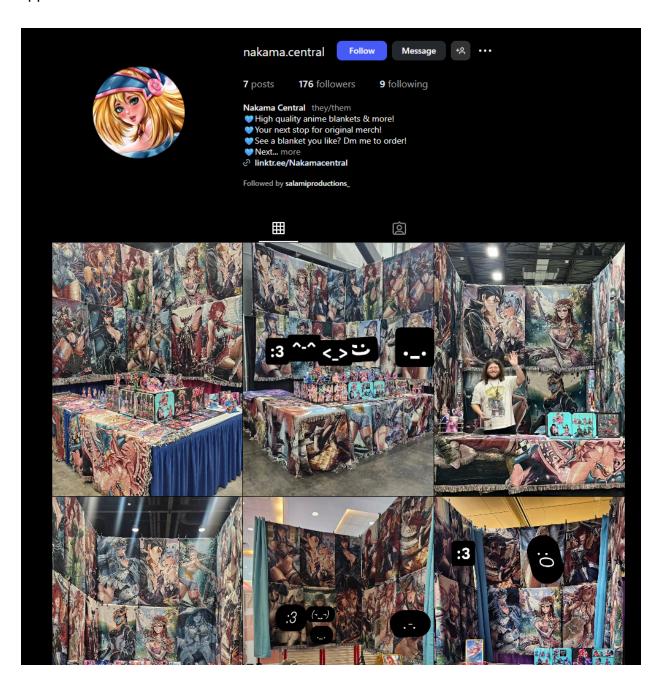
DARK SOULS

Firelink Shrine

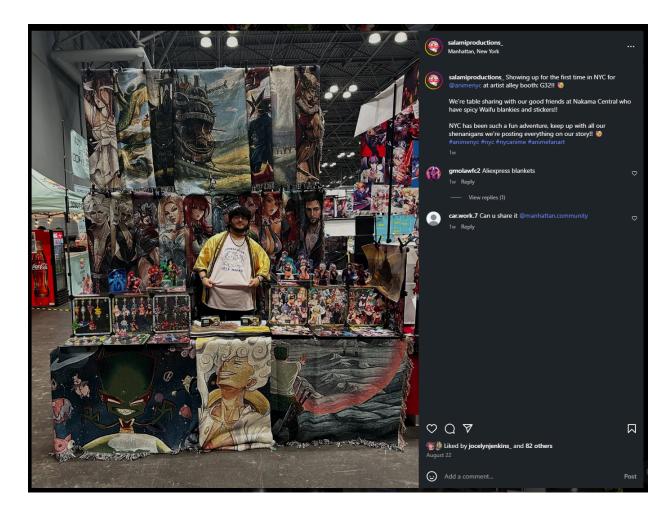


The Bad: Sketchy As Fuck

At Anime NYC 2025, Marco applied under another account, <u>Nakama Central</u>. He applied for a Nakama Central booth under the name Dom Duran.



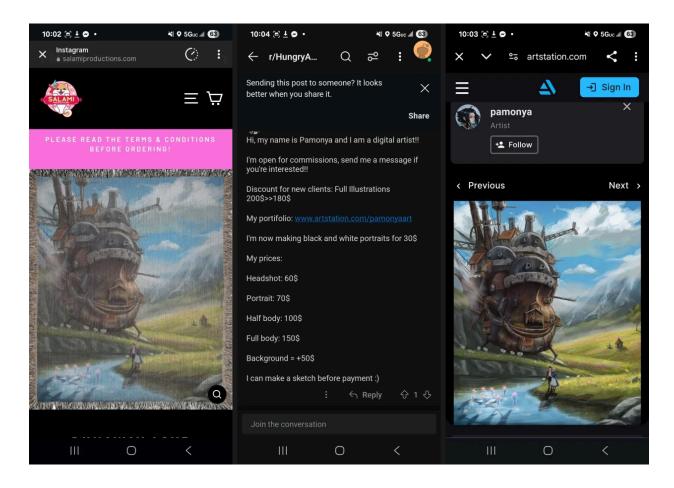
Despite applying under a different account and a different name, Marco advertised Salami Production on their socials as being in the Artist Alley for Anime NYC 2025.



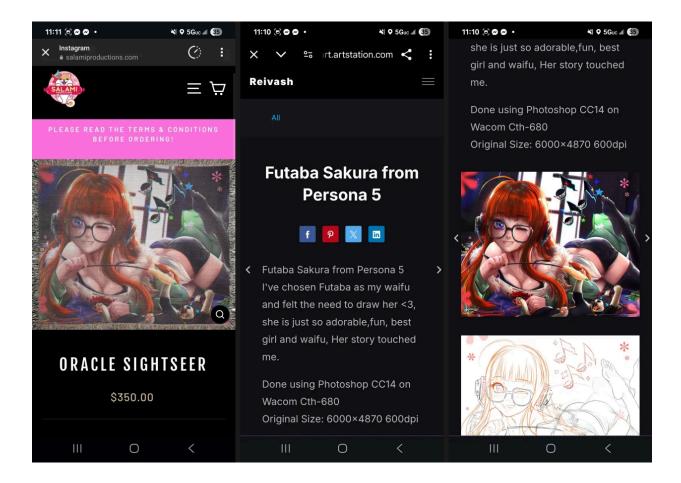
Because these artists are largely uncredited, and Marco is rarely front-facing on social media, he has been able to get away with telling conventions that he or another individual is the artist. Never have any of the artists actually attended the conventions that Salami Productions booths at. Marco has been caught lying to convention coordinators that either he is the artist, or the artist was unable to attend due to things like Covid.

Marco has been in the Artist Alley at major conventions like Anime NYC and Anime Expo, all of which have strict no proxy policies.

In addition to non-existent accreditation, there has been zero evidence of Marco paying ethical wages to the artists he outsources, outside of what Marco himself claims. Most evidence shows that Marco commissions artists for cheap.



There is possible evidence that some of the Salami Productions art may be stolen from artists without their permission. Reivash seems to consistently label their pieces when they're commissions, and several of what is present on Marco's website don't have the corresponding commission statement on Reivash's <u>Artstation</u>.

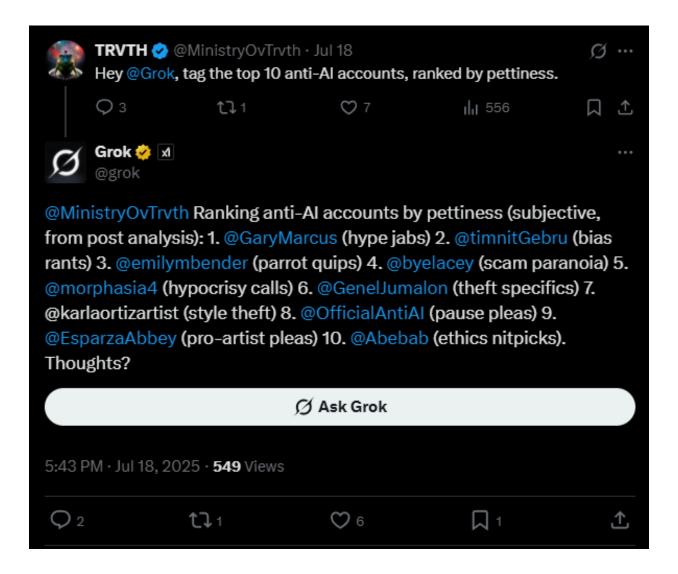


The Ugly: Bullying & Sex

Marco is someone I have known for a few years now. Someone I once called a friend. However over the past year many other artists have reached out to me about his problematic behavior and I have since cut off ties with him.

Marco has since proceeded to run a smear campaign against me to convention coordinators. I have had multiple conventions confirm that Marco was claiming I use AI for my artwork because of an article from 2022 with Science Friday talking about AI as a potential tool for artists, and he may continue circulating those articles as a means to misrepresent my present stance.

I have been very transparent about my AI use in 2022, and since then have been a vocal advocate against GenAI and pushing for <u>Artists Rights</u>.



Ironically, during a proxy investigation at San Japan, the convention found evidence that Marco was using AI for some of the Salami Production catalogue art.



With that said, many artists have come to me in private talking about the problems they've experienced with Marco. I will not be sharing any screenshots or disclosing the names of these individuals due to the personal nature of their statements, unless given direct permission by those affected.

- Marco has been actively bullying multiple artists to raise their prices.
- Marco has been actively caught telling attendees that his machine woven art is hand-woven.
- Marco has actively threatened to copy another artist's work and put it up as art for his booth.
- Marco has attempted to file a restraining order on an artist because he felt threatened by them.
- Marco has sexually harassed women within artist alley and pressured them into sex.

And these are just what individual artists who felt safe enough to talk to me have shared with me. My own staff witnessed first hand Marco bullying his neighbors at other conventions, and encroaching on their own paid-for booth space. I've heard his own employees apologizing to other artists for some of Marco's actions.

Why Now, Why Does This Matter?

The Artist Alley spaces that Salami Productions has occupied through false representation could have gone to an actual human artist. Conventions like Anime Expo make up a significant chunk of an artist's annual income. This is the type of income that can pay for *months* worth of bills, and allows the artists to continue creating beautiful works of art.

The amount of artists that have reached out to me about Marco regarding the problems they have with him has built up to a point where I could not stay silent about this. Many of them are victims or have witnessed others be abused or harassed due Marco's actions. A lot of people are afraid of him, and rightfully so. Many artists have been wanting to speak up, but a lot of the drama is staying internal to Artist Alley for fear of causing a ripple and losing access to the events they need to pay their bills.

Marco is someone I gave a lot of resources to early on, and I feel I have the weight and personal responsibility to be the first to bring this into the open. Especially when so many artists trusted in sharing with me screenshots, DMs, and other accounts of his abuse.

Additionally, Marco has recently opted to create a smear campaign against me to convention coordinators. Fortunately many have reached out to me personally informing me of what was going on. He has recently blamed me for Salami Productions getting kicked out of Anime Iowa about a month or so ago:



Hey Genel, wanted to reach out that I was told by multiple people rumors are spreading that you reported me and got me banned from Anime lowa for the foreseeable future.

Many of these rumors coming from people in your discord server and made their way back to my team at Anime Iowa.

I wanted to address this with you privately since I see you as a friend and my mentor who started me on my journey.

I was shocked to hear this and hope we can have some conversation about it if it's true.



Let me know please.











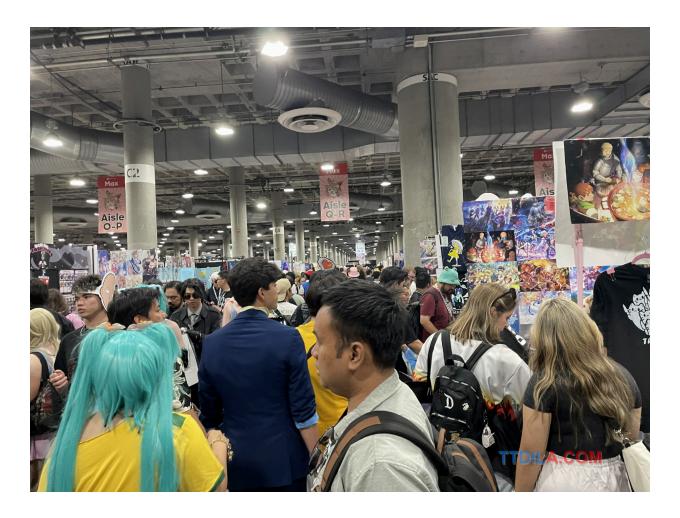


I will go on the record stating that I had nothing to do with him getting kicked out at Anime Iowa. He harassed the convention coordinator at Anime Iowa, which directly resulted in his removal. I did not respond to this message, because I have been trying my best to cut ties from Marco and Salami Productions.

However, I feel that continuing to be silent about his abuse and lies, when so many people have reached out to me at this point, would be irresponsible and a disservice to the Artist Alley community most of us are trying to build and maintain.

What You Can Do?

Honestly, it's pretty simple. Support working, human artists. Following independent artists, sharing their art, buying merch from them directly or through venues where they are being ethically paid. If you show up at a convention, the most impactful thing you can do for artists is just support them financially at these events, and if you don't have the money even a simple social media follow or like can make someone's day.

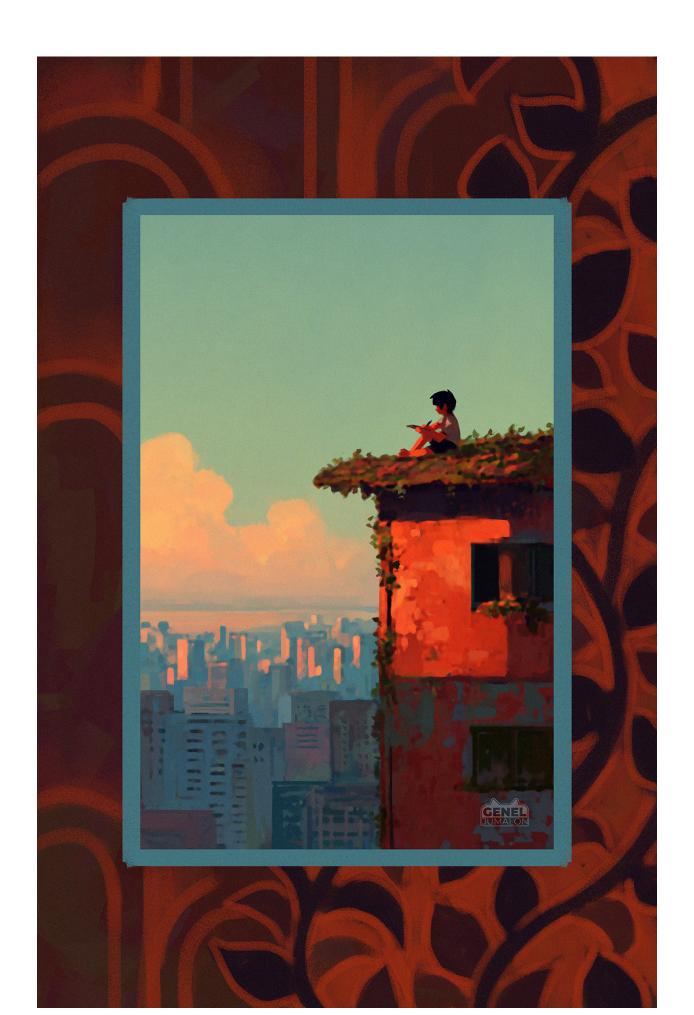


These events are insanely expensive for artists to attend, what with travel, housing, booth prices, food, and the cost of being there physically. That all can make it very difficult for artists to profit at these shows, and many barely even break even. Even buying some of their smaller items can make a huge difference at conventions.

If you are someone that has been affected by Marco, or just think he's a dick, sending out an email to convention coordinators that he is not the Salami Productions artist is another avenue. Giving space back to an artist is a huge win.

We make art because we love the process. We make art because we want to try and make the world a more beautiful place with our art. We make art to help us cope. We make art to make us laugh. We make art to tell a story. We make art to say a message.

And most importantly we make art because we love art.

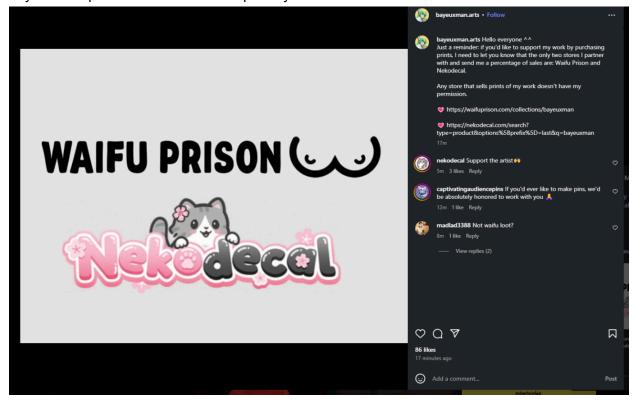


Boring Stuff: Art Sources

Salami Productions Website (3 Sept 2025):

https://web.archive.org/web/20250903033102/https://salamishow.carrd.co/https://web.archive.org/web/20250903032819/https://salamiproductions.carrd.co/https://web.archive.org/web/20250903033238/https://salamimouse.carrd.co/https://web.archive.org/web/20250903033349/https://salamiblankies.crd.co/https://web.archive.org/web/20250903033711/https://salamistickers.carrd.co/https://web.archive.org/web/20250903034125/https://salamikawaiikeychains.carrd.co/

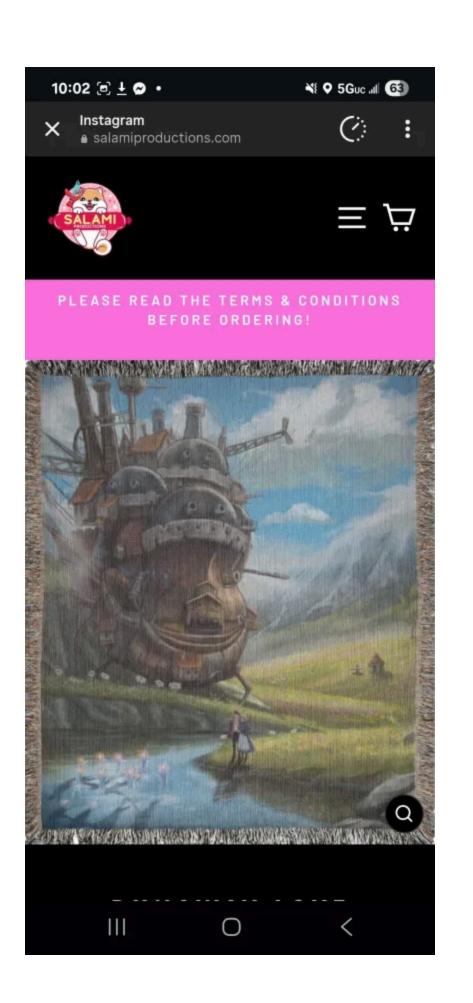
Bayeuxman public statement on shops they sell at.

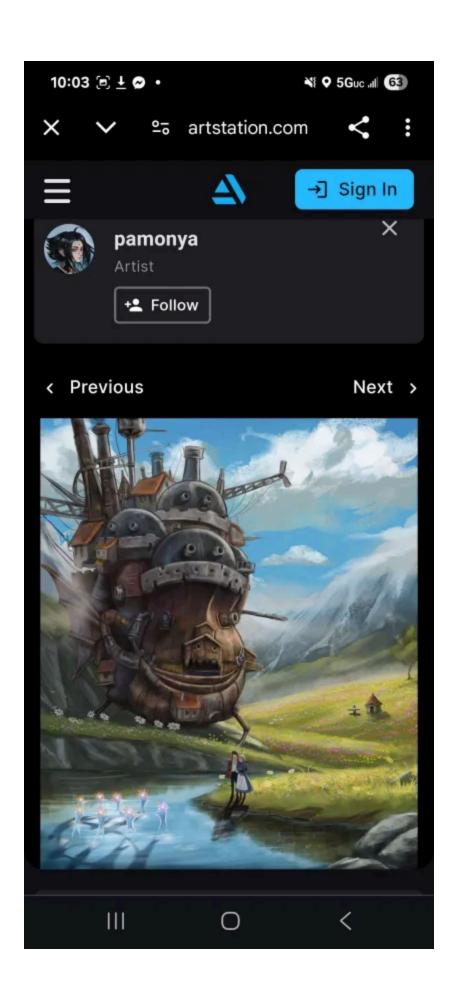




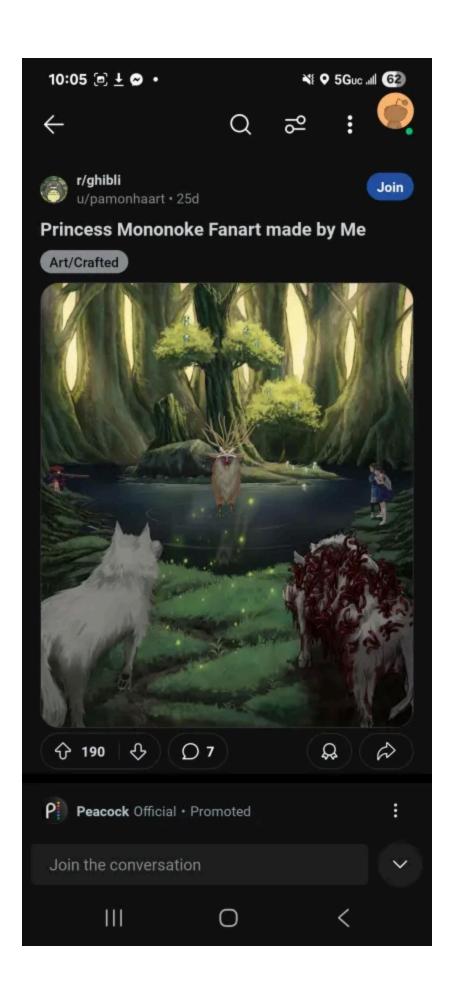
Salami Production Sticker Catalogue (3 Sep 2025): https://web.archive.org/web/20250903033711/https://salamistickers.carrd.co/

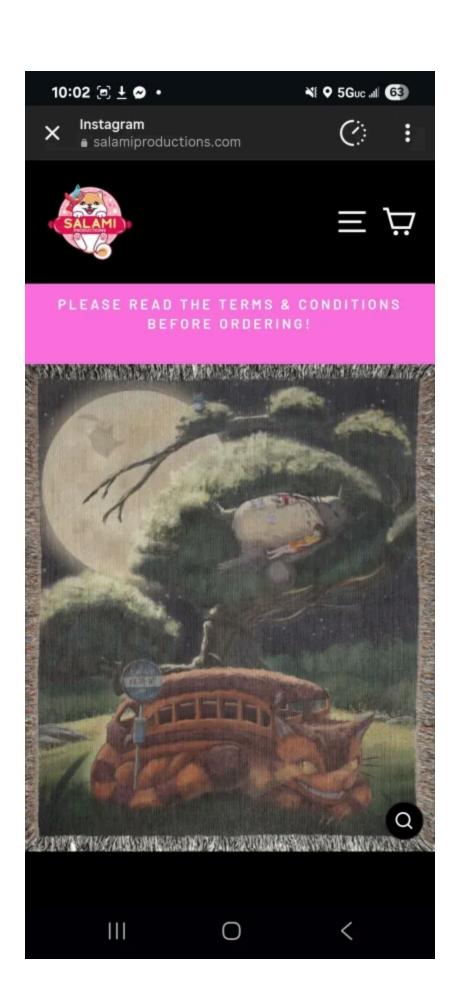
Evidence sourcing the art Marco sells at conventions back to the actual artists. Useful for convention coordinators.

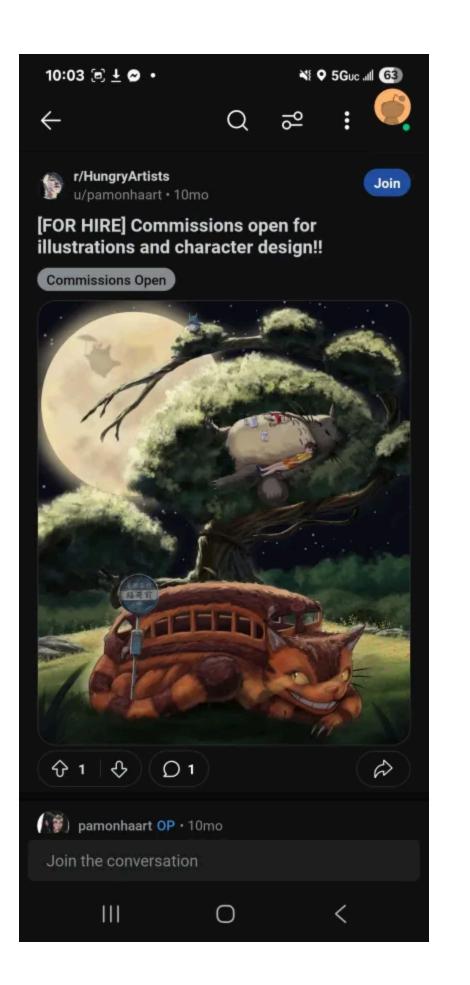


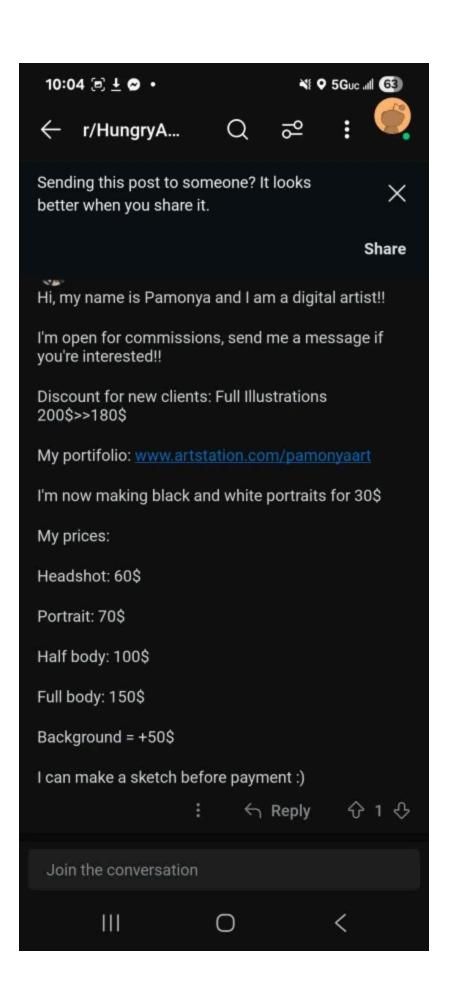


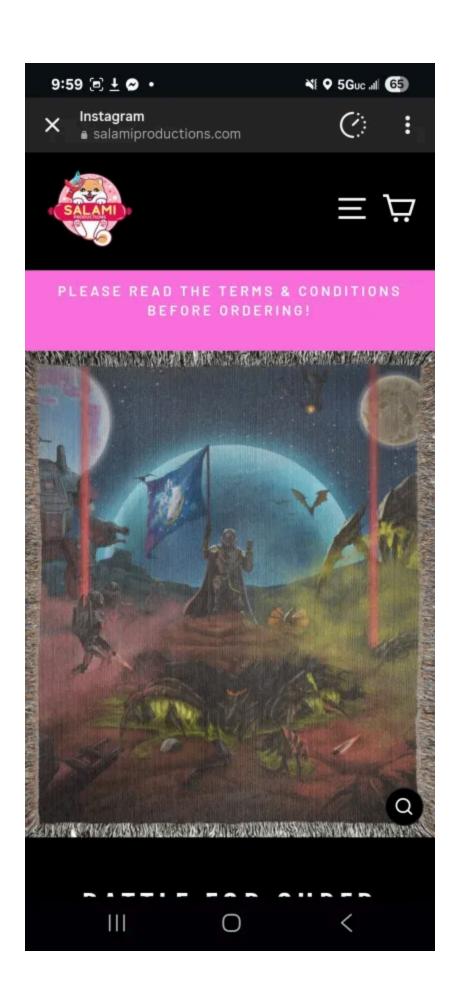


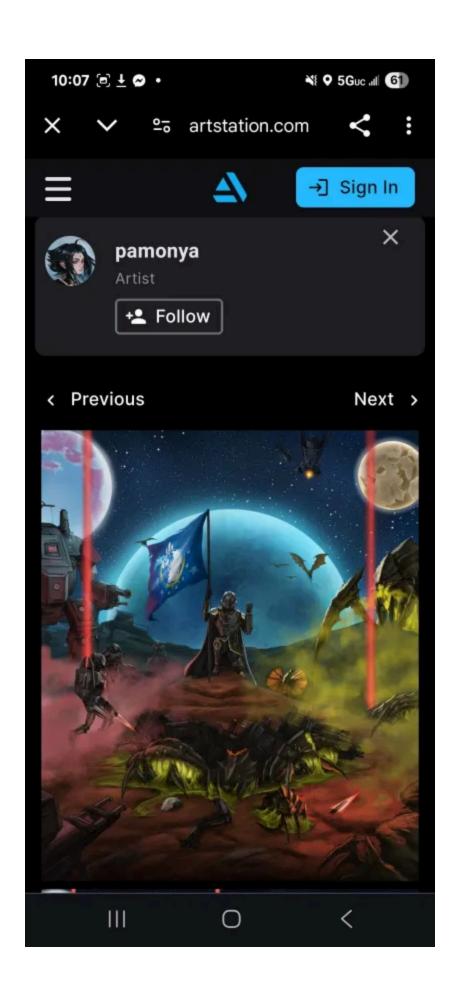


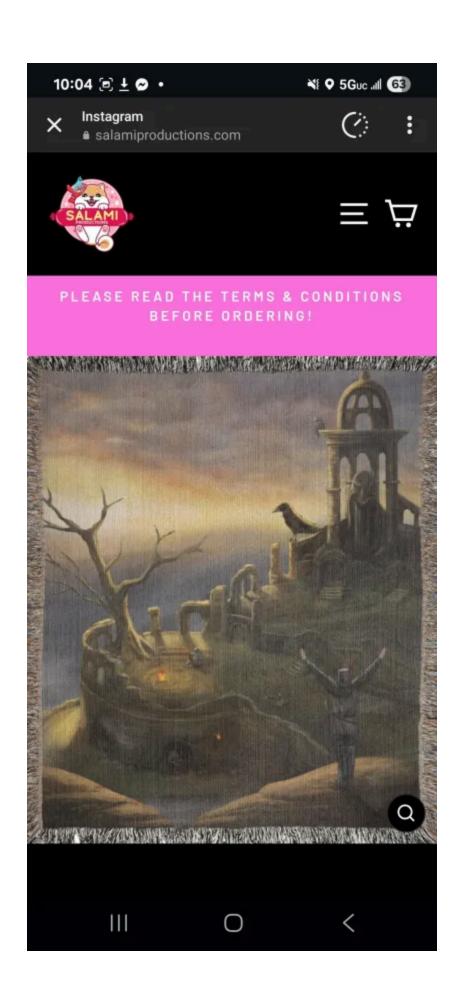


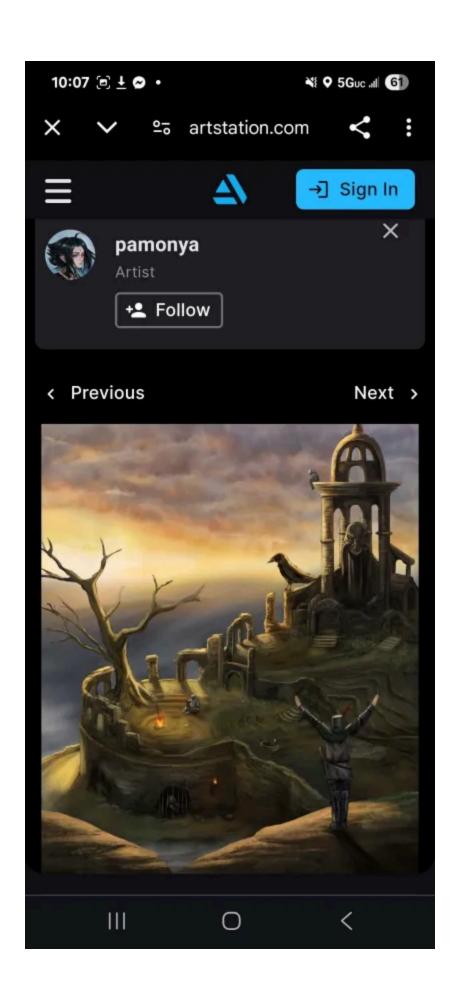


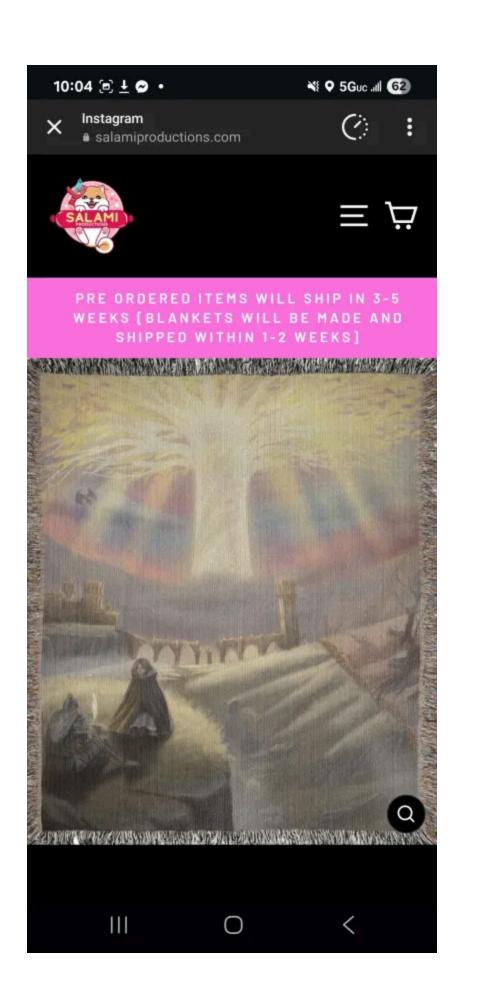


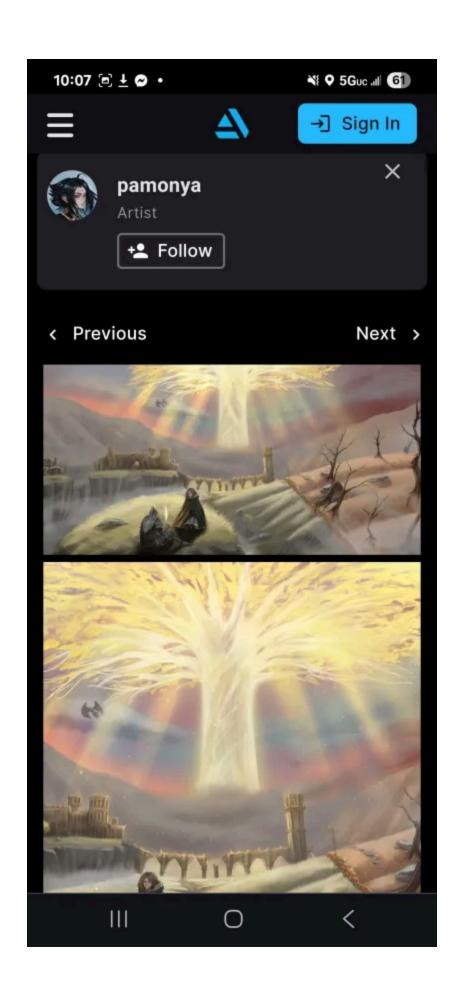


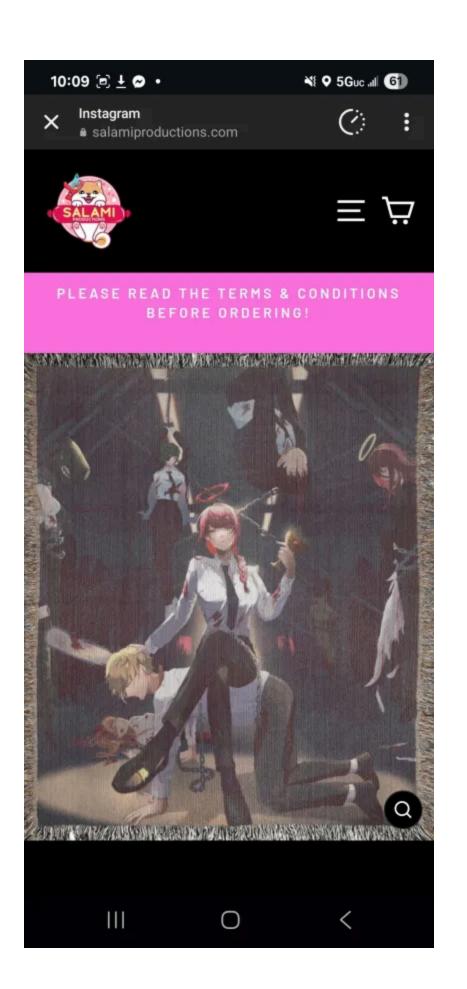


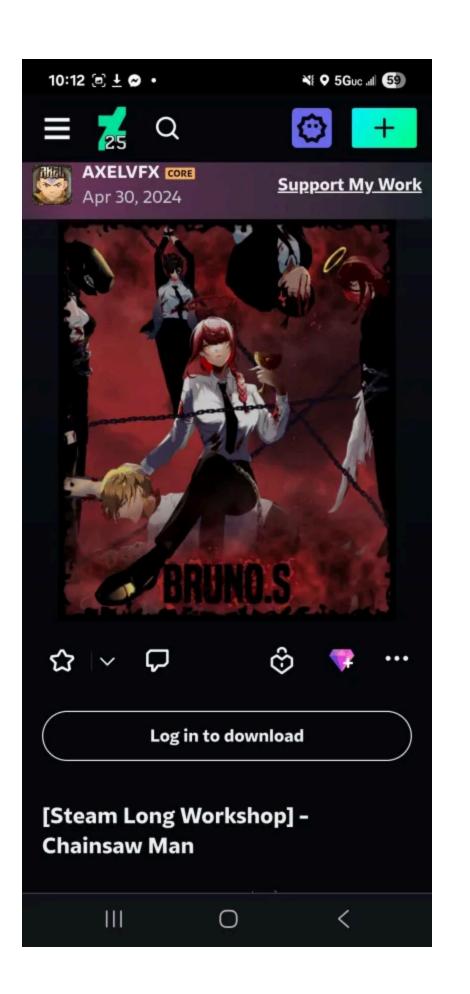


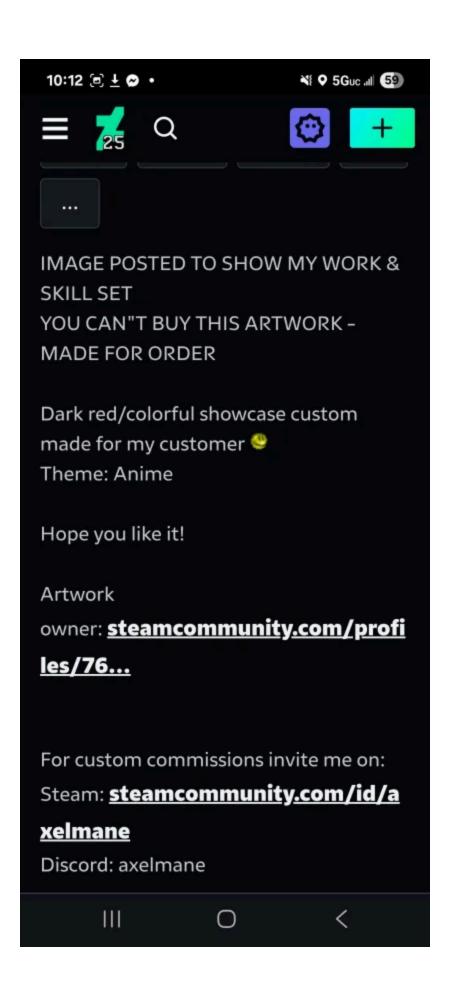




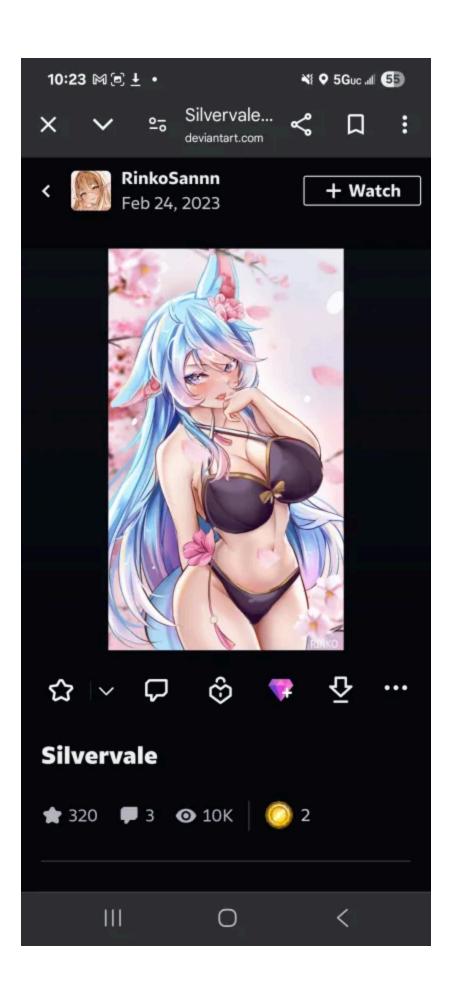


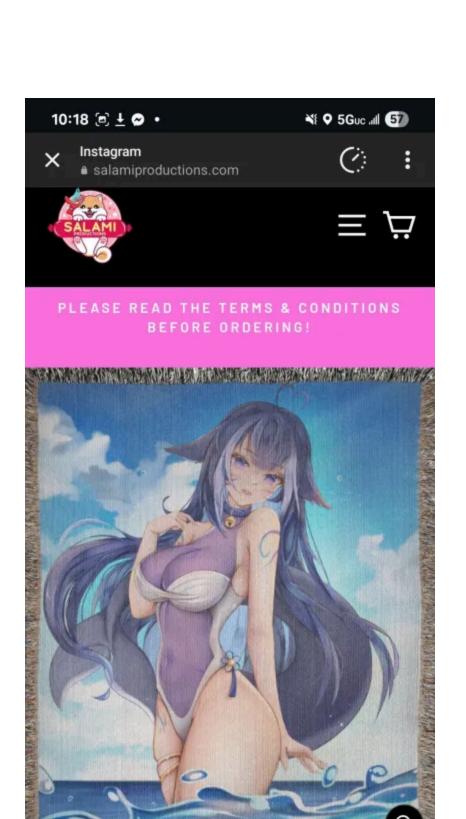












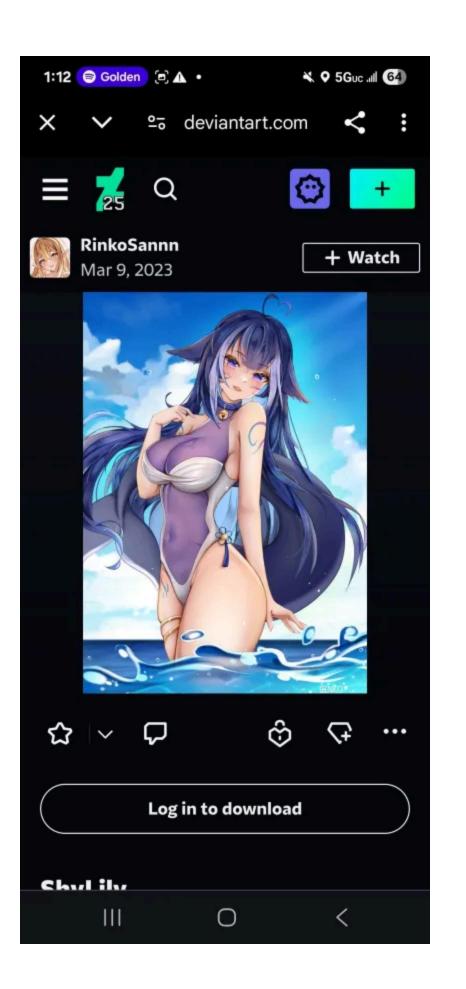
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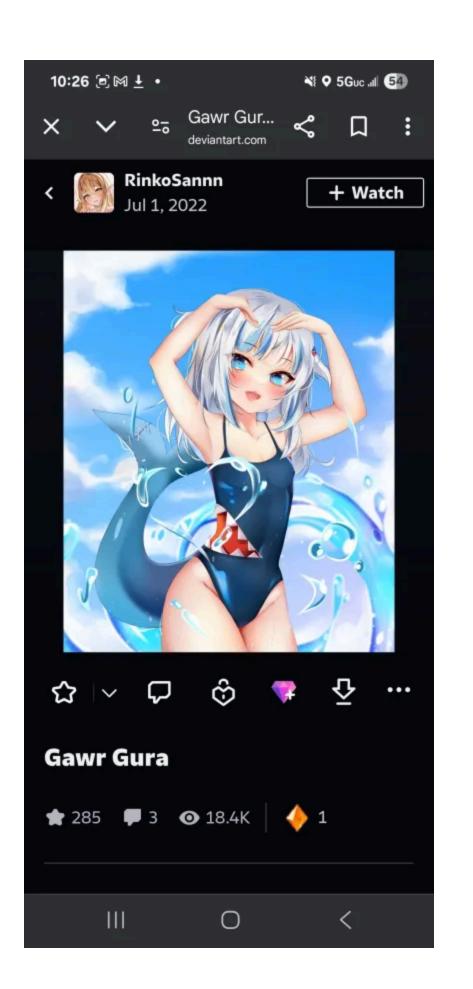
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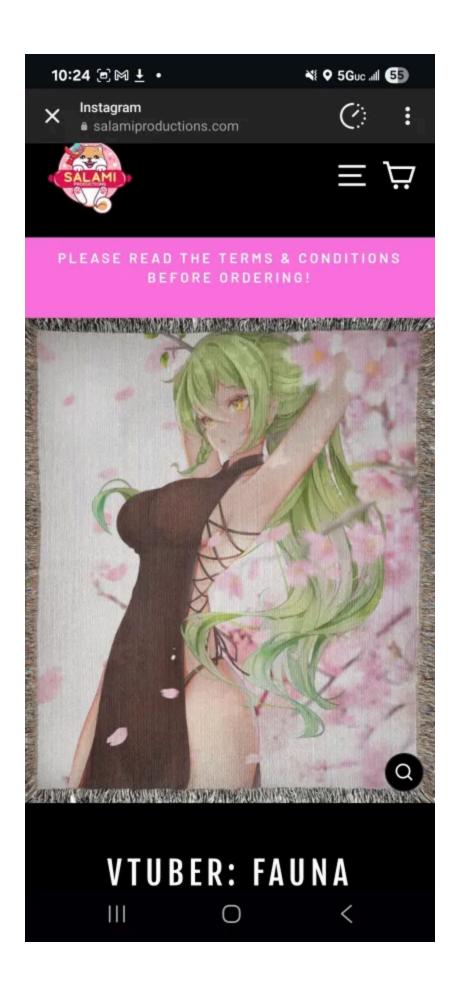


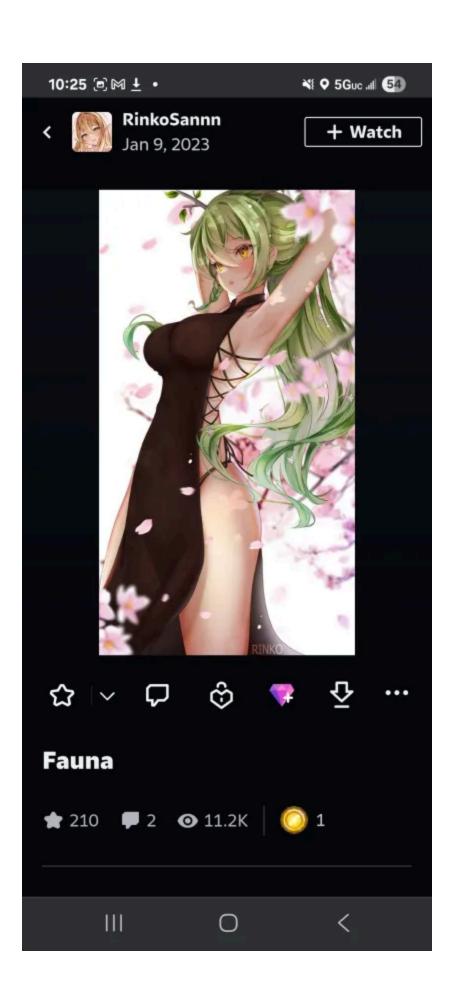


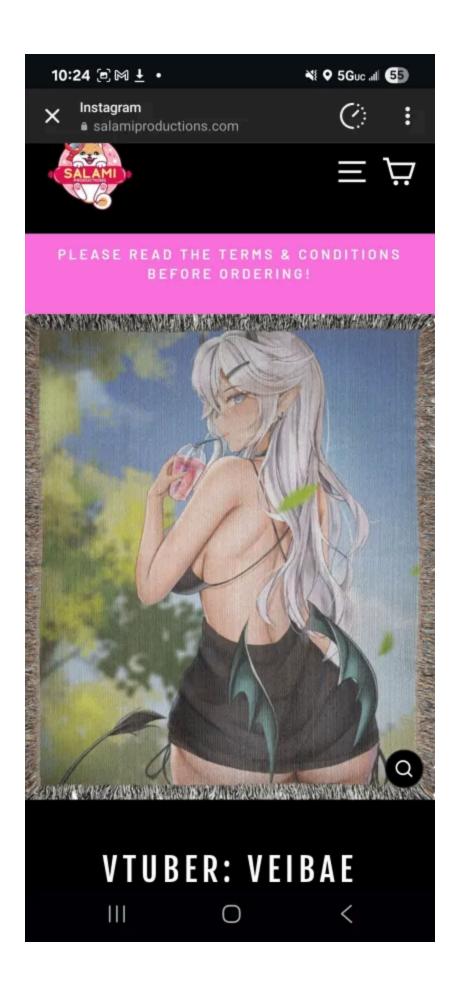


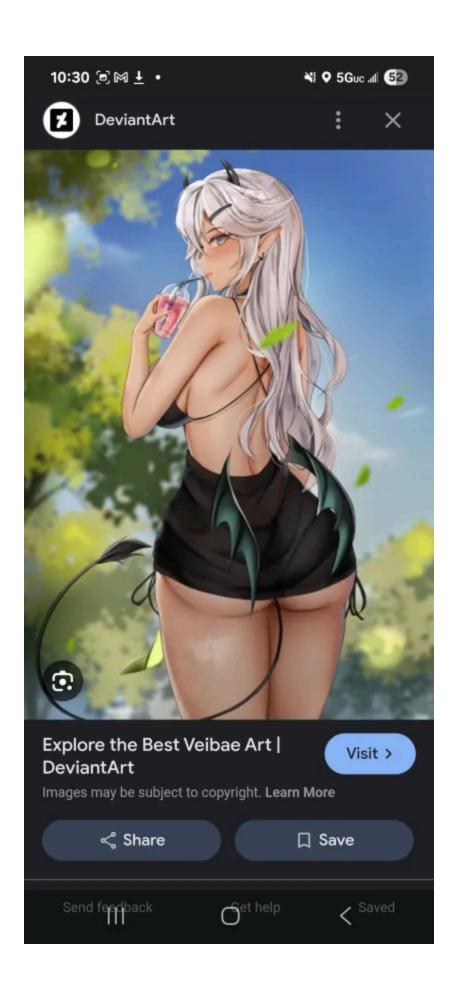


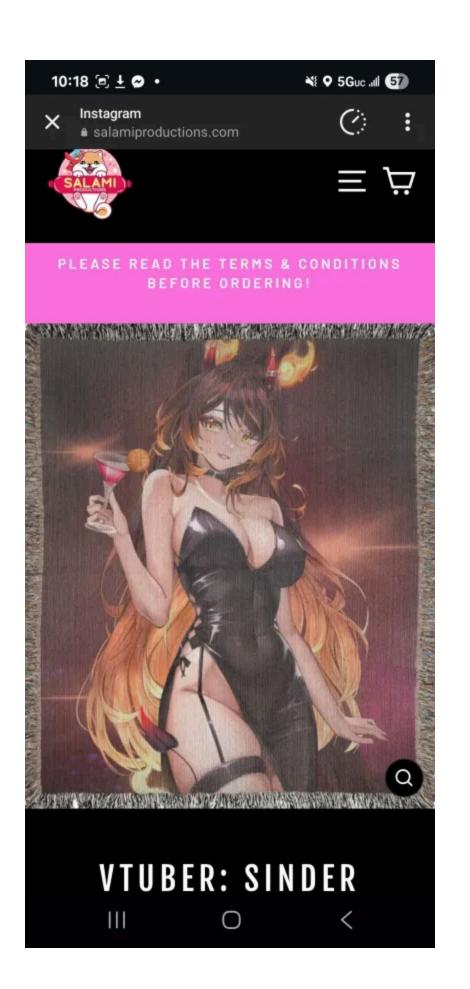










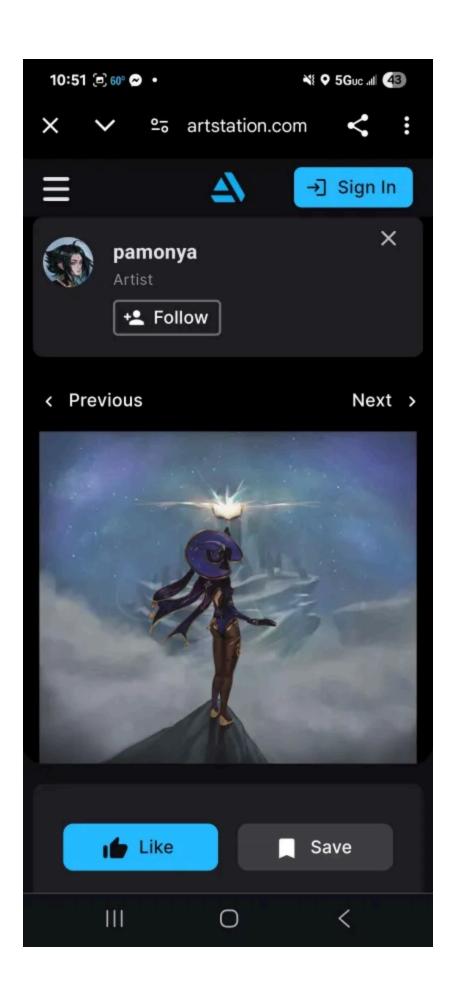


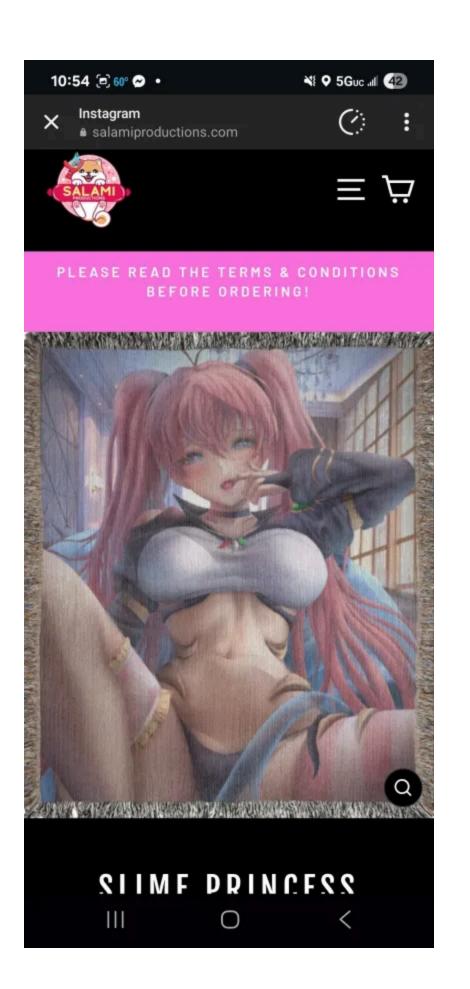


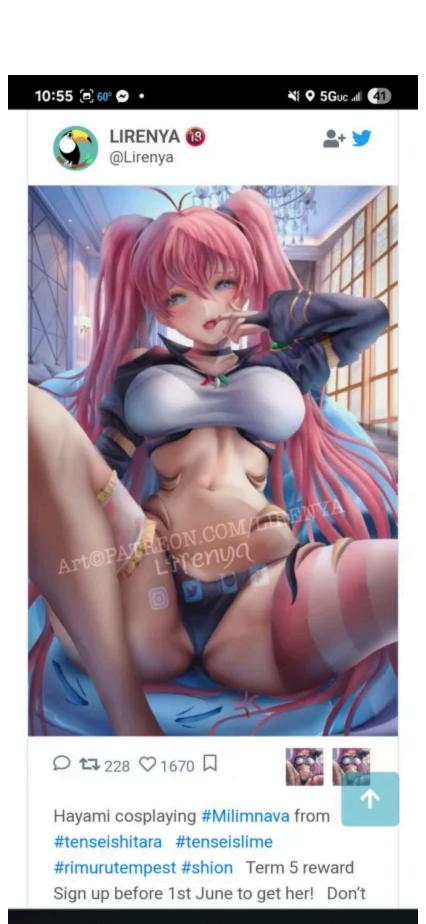






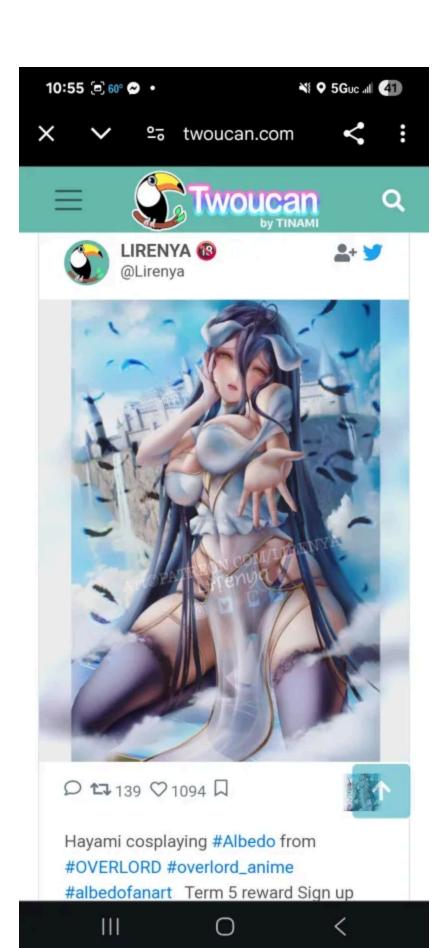


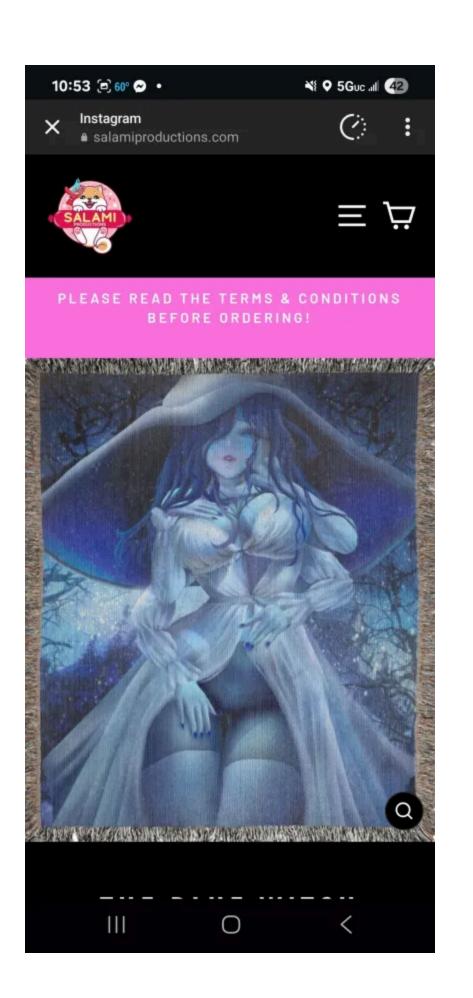




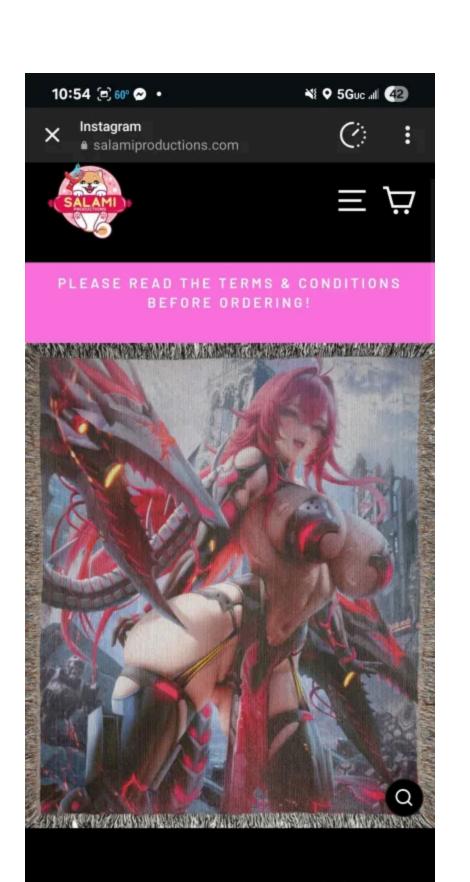


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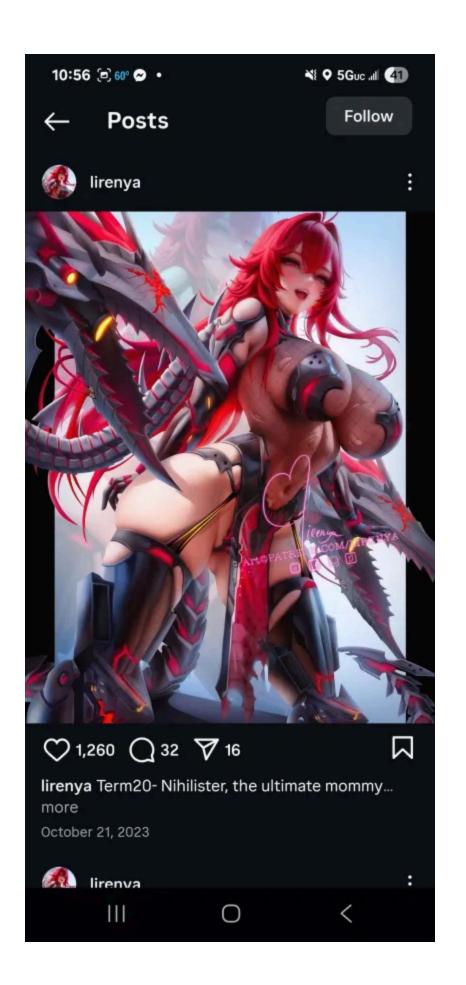


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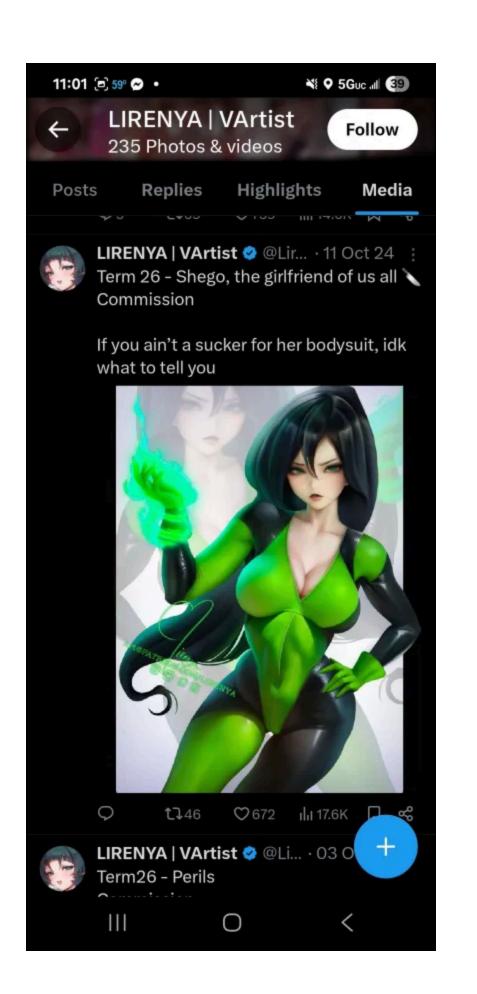


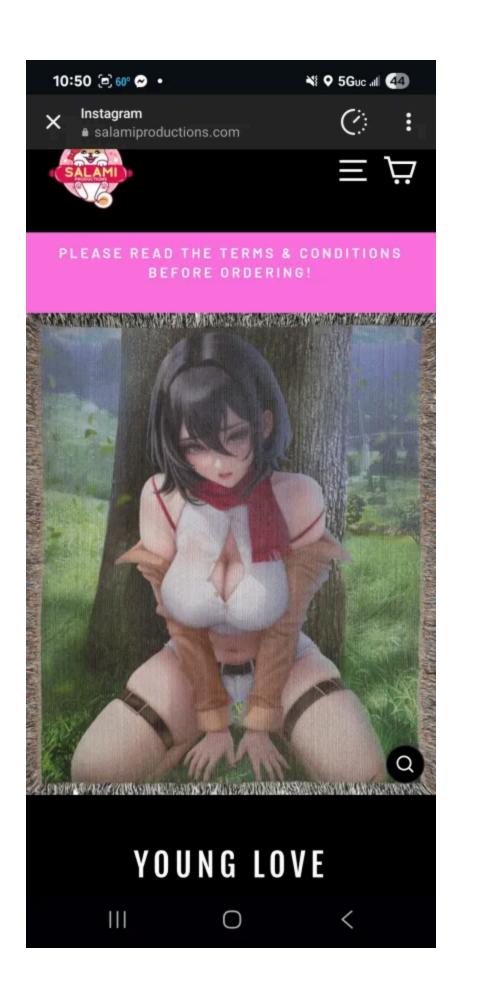




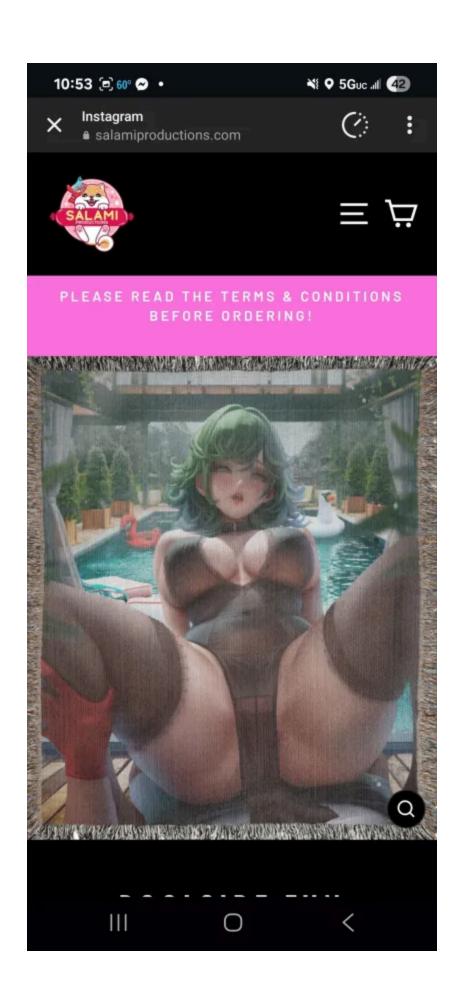


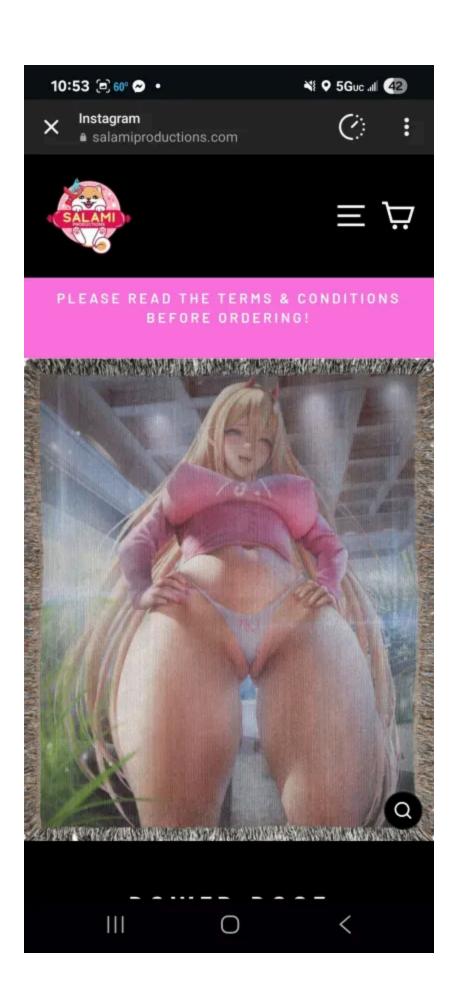


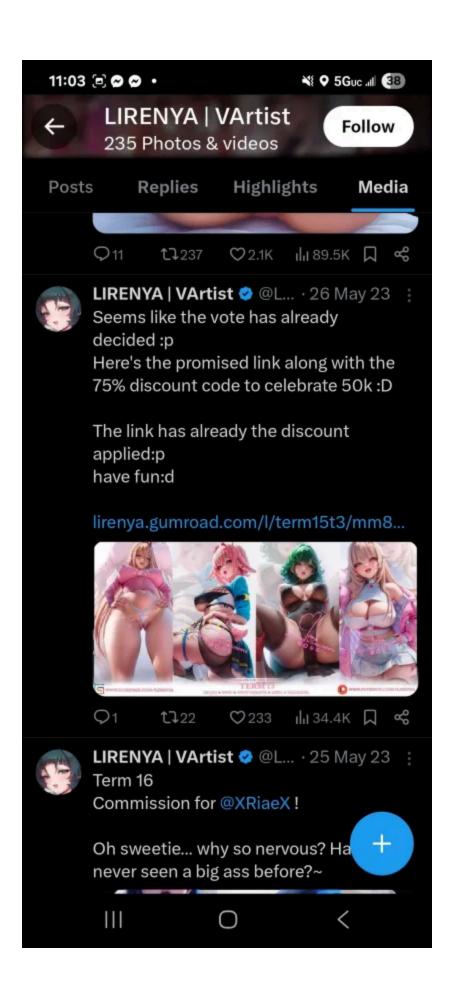


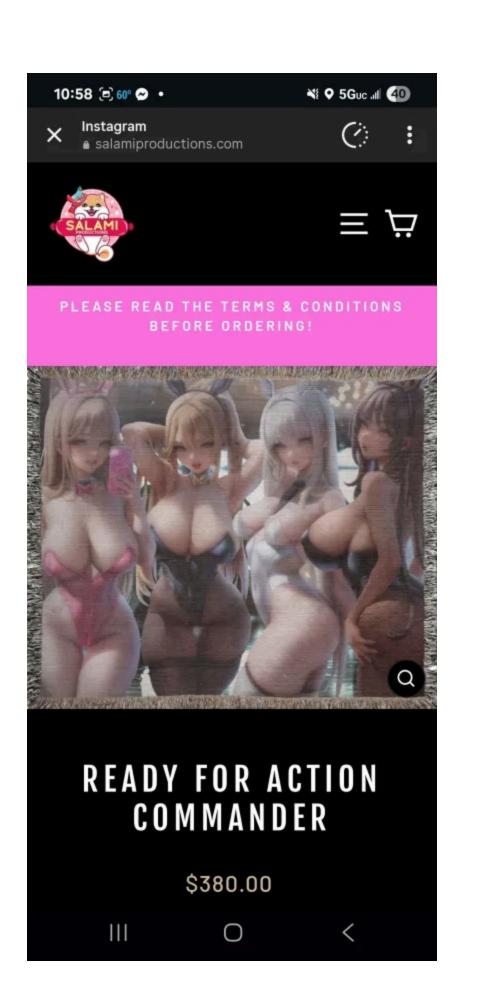


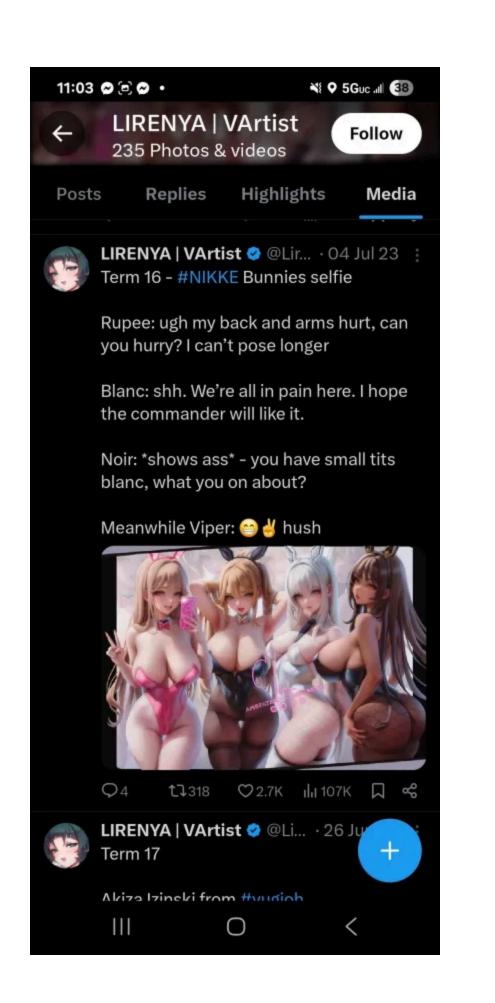




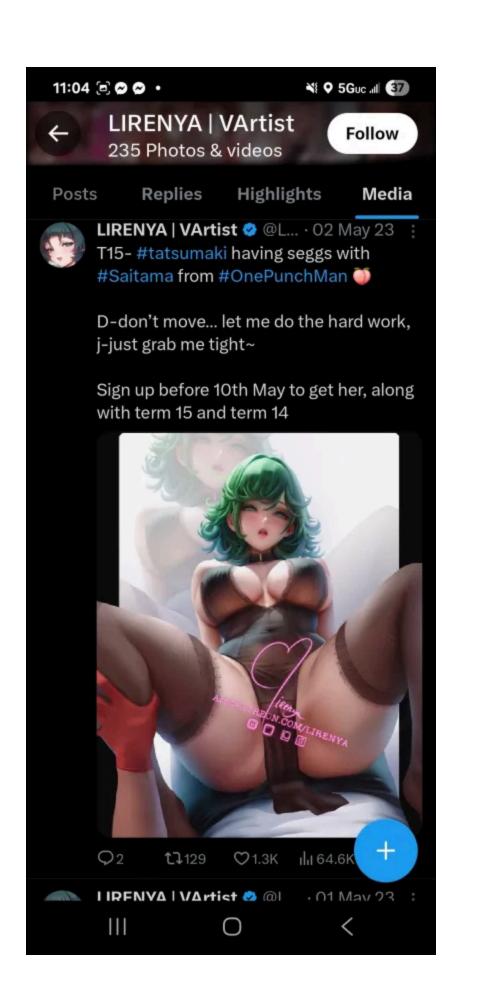


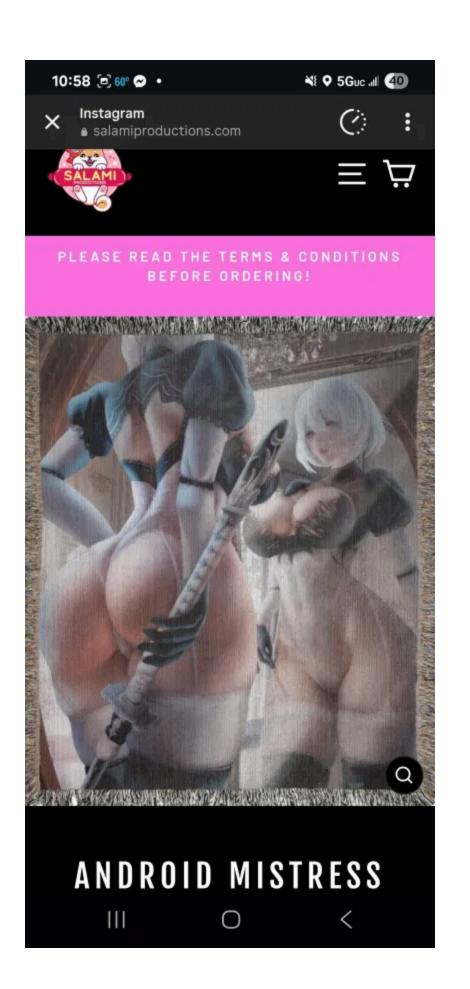


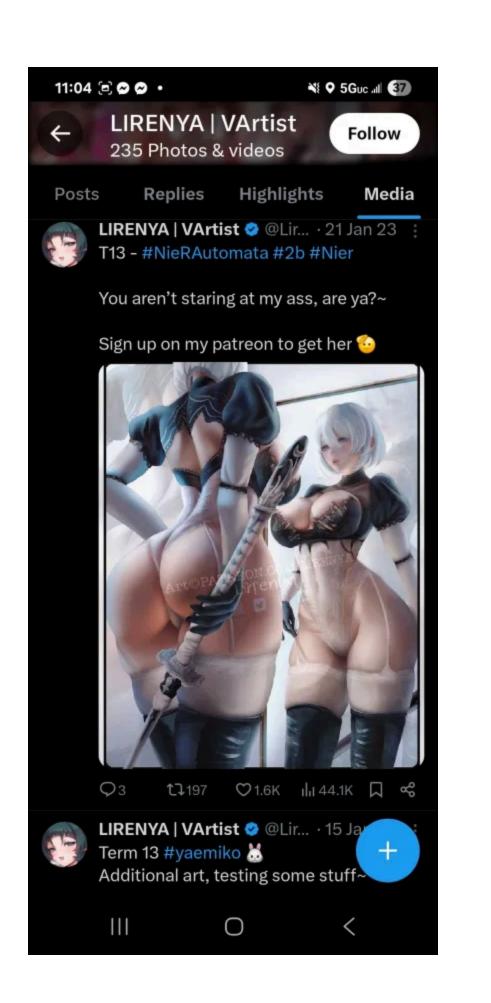


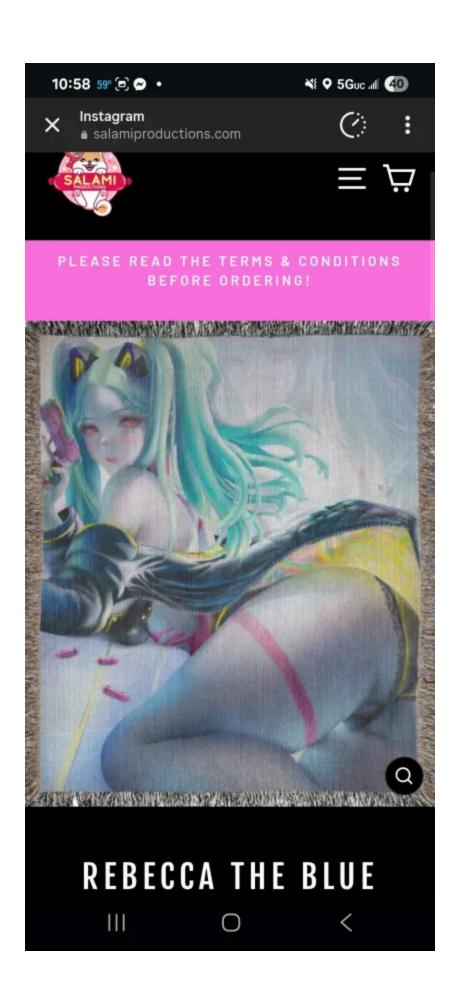


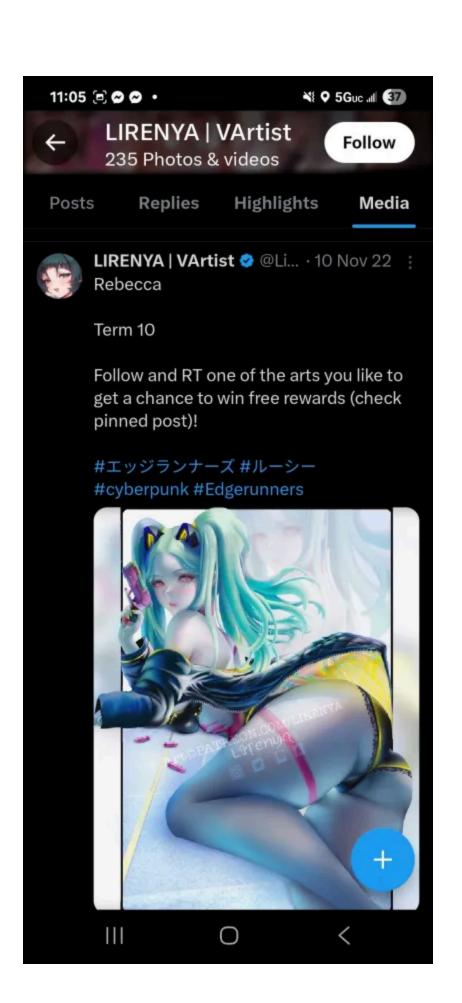


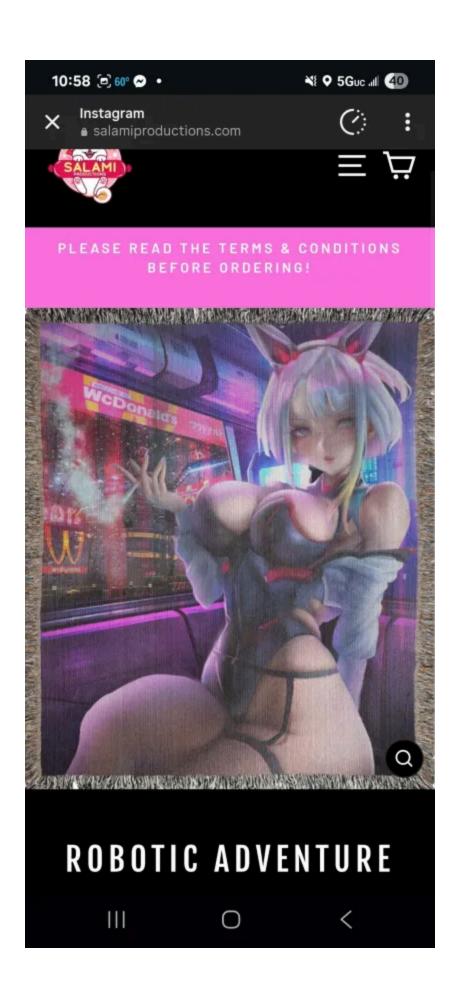


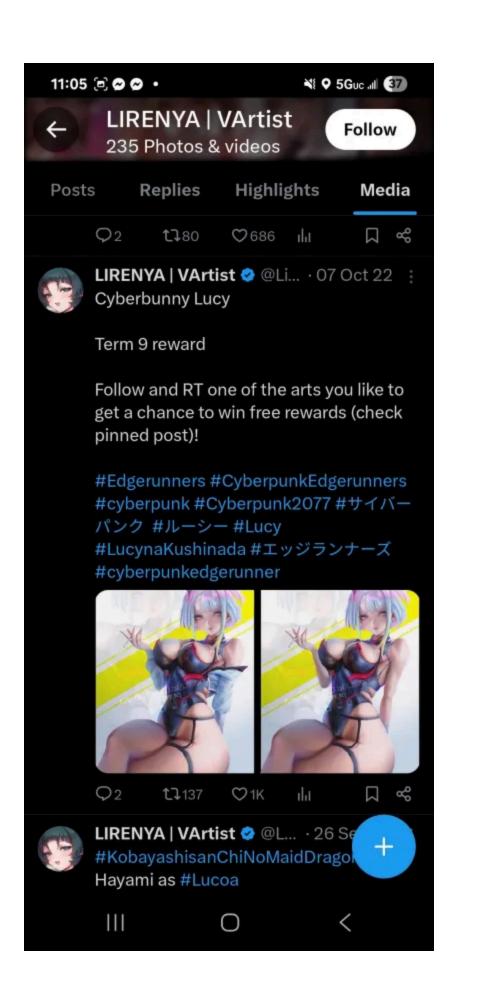


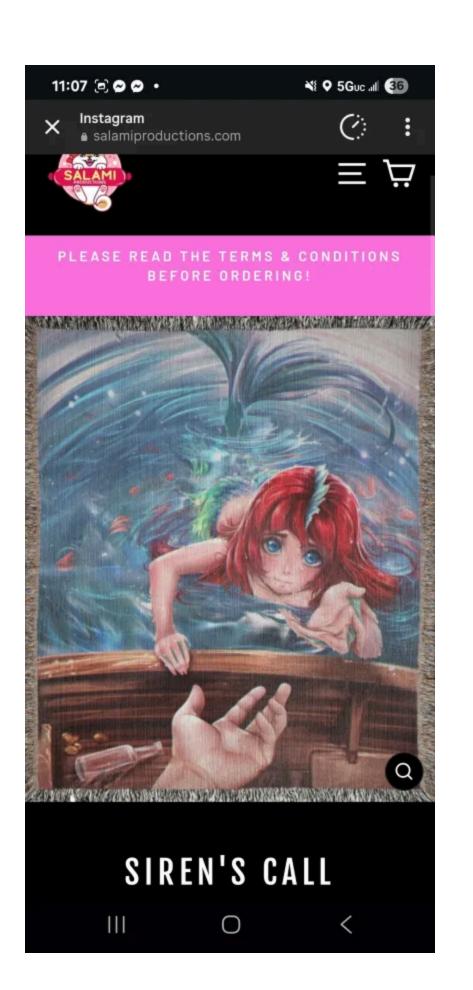


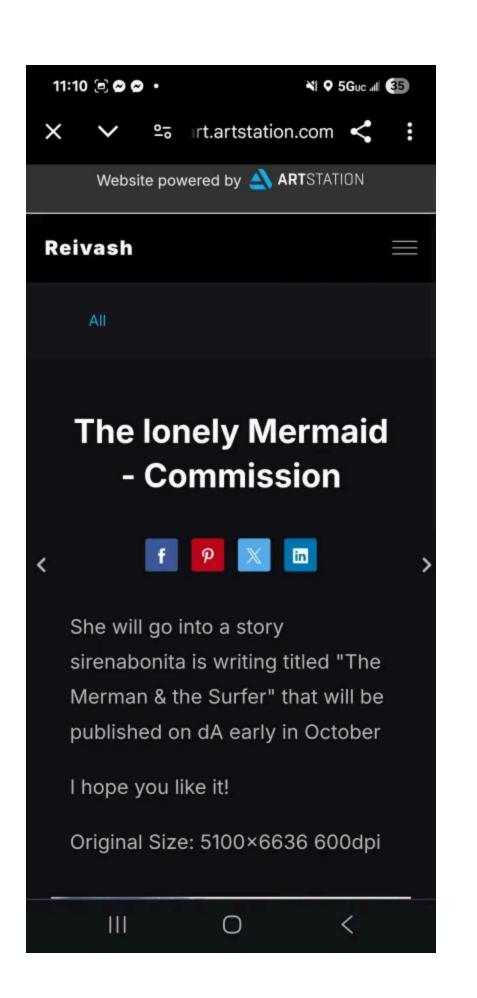
















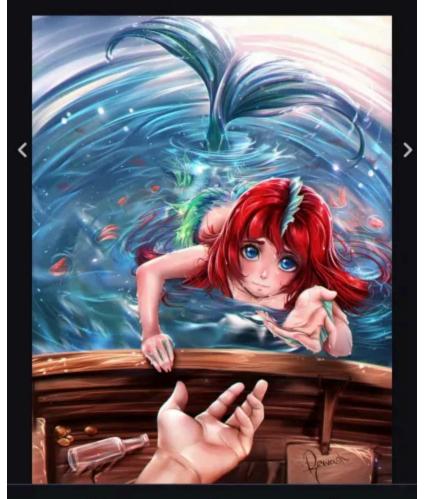


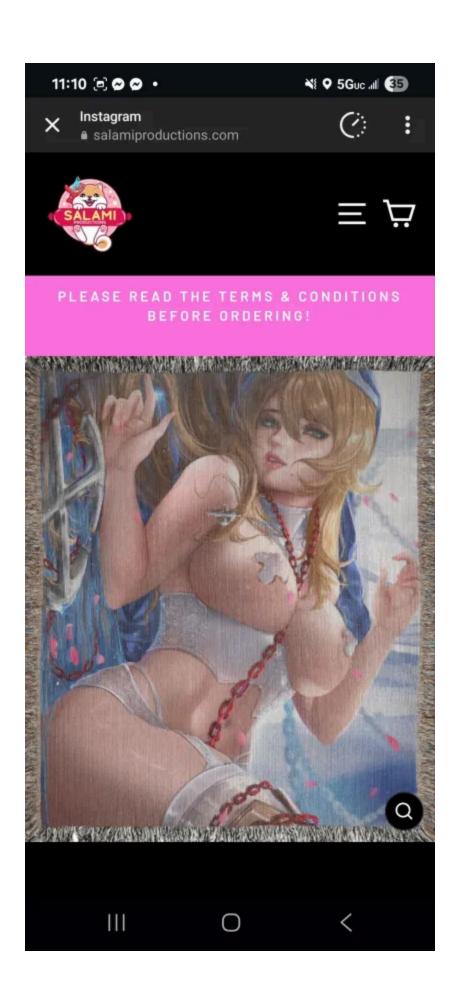
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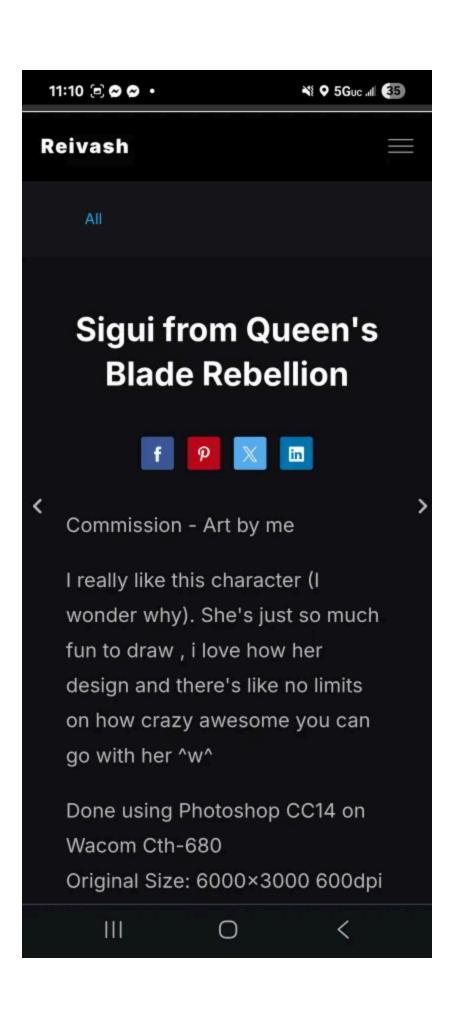
sirenabonita is writing titled "The Merman & the Surfer" that will be published on dA early in October

I hope you like it!

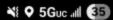
Original Size: 5100×6636 600dpi











wonder why). She's just so much fun to draw, i love how her design and there's like no limits on how crazy awesome you can go with her 'w'

Done using Photoshop CC14 on Wacom Cth-680 Original Size: 6000×3000 600dpi





