



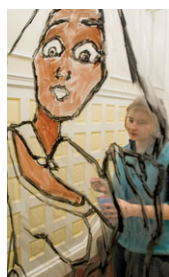
Bringing Whimsy to Bay State Road

Daria Lugina (CFA'19, CAS'19) transforms brownstone doors with revolving art project

ON ANY GIVEN WEEK, STUDENTS MAY HAVE glimpsed Snoopy, Chihiro Ogino from *Spirited Away*, or the Corpse Bride gazing out at them from the doors of 200 and 202 Bay State Road. The brightly painted characters are the work of Daria Lugina (CFA'19, CAS'19), who started the popular installation art project on a whim.

In high school, Lugina volunteered at the local library, where the staff painted the windows in the children's room with illustrations from picture books, like Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. She found the process calming and enjoyed watching the children's reactions when they saw their favorite characters drawn larger than life.

Daria Lugina takes her inspiration from cartoons and popular culture. She particularly enjoys painting Disney characters, such as Rapunzel from *Tangled* and Lilo and Stitch.



Now a painting and English double major and a computer science minor, Lugina lives in the Trustee Scholars House at 200 Bay State Road. During her first year at BU, the house residents decorated their brownstone for Halloween, and she came up with the idea of painting the door with the title character from the 2005 film *Corpse Bride*. (Lugina uses acrylic paint mixed with dish soap, so the illustrations wash off easily with water.) "We got such a good response from it," she says, "that I've been doing it ever since, about once a month."

Lugina, who plans to pursue a career in animation or interactive design, takes her inspiration from cartoons and popular culture. She particularly enjoys painting Disney characters—Rapunzel from *Tangled*, Lilo and Stitch, and Mickey Mouse—which are also the favorites of her littlest fans.

"A lot of kids come down the street and get excited when they recognize the cartoons," she says, adding that college students are equally enthralled. "I've definitely seen people take pictures—and they weren't always five. It's a nice way to get art out into the community." **LARA EHRLICH**

ONLINE: Watch a video of Daria Lugina as she paints the doors of 200 and 202 Bay State Road, the first with an image of Ariel from Disney's *The Little Mermaid* and the second with an image of a Muslim woman joining hands with the Statue of Liberty, at bu.edu/bostonia.