

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY BREANNA CARZOO



MARUSHABELLE.COM JMARUSHA_BELLE

Marusha Belle holds an MFA in Fashion Design. She is well known for her patterns, which are reflected in her children's book illustration. Marusha has worked on hundreds of illustration projects in a variety of fields, including toy design, home decor, and giftware. She loves creating characters with strong personalities.

I LOVE heartwarming, inspiring stories with a pinch of magic, that inspire smiles and include memorable characters, adorable animals, and imaginative nature scenes.









THEREMAYBECATS.COM STHEREMAYBECATS THEREMAYBECATS

Elke Boschinger is a UK-based mixed media artist who has had a passion for creating characters and the worlds they live in since she was able to hold a pencil. She thinks in pictures and aims to create books that make readers feel and smile.

I LOVE being in nature and reading magical books. My dream projects are stories about friendship, adventure, and mystery.









BREANNACARZOO.COM SCARZOO BREANNACARZOO FBREANNACARZOOBOOKS



Breanna Carzoo is an author-illustrator of picture books. She crafts humorous books based on universal human emotions, and she creates illustrations with cut paper collage and mixed media. Her debut picture book LOU was accepted into the Society of Illustrators Original Art Show.

I LOVE irresistible, flawed, and misunderstood characters. Stories in the social-emotional space are of particular interest to me! I love creating big, bold, and clear illustrations that are alive with humor and personality.





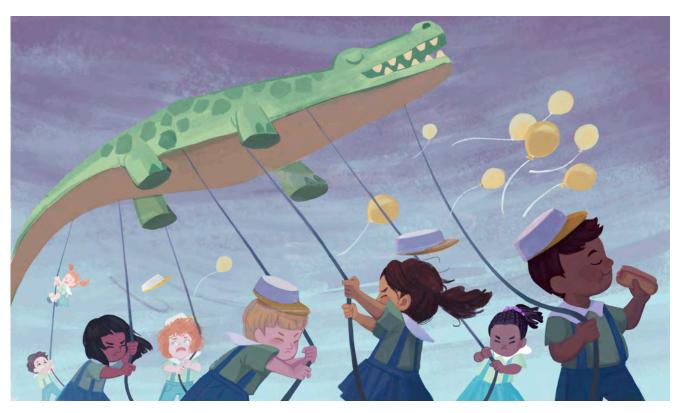


DIANACASTLEART.COM

Diana Castillo grew up in Havana and moved to Florida at a young age, where she went on to get a BFA in Illustration from Ringling College of Art and Design. Prior clients include Disney and Nintendo. Diana loves storytelling and drawing family dynamics, playful kids, and magical environments.

I'M ATTRACTED to stories with charming characters in playful scenarios. Whether that's an underwater castle, a loud family dinner, or a magical forest! Having grown up an island girl I'm also fascinated by mermaids and would love to work on a Latinx mermaid story!









NEELYDAGGETT.COM ONEELYDAGGETT



Neely Daggett illustrates from her home studio in Portland, Oregon, and she loves to dream up adorable characters with heart—especially kids! When she's not drawing, you can find Neely playing UNO with her three kids, coaching soccer, or wrangling her crazy pets.

I WOULD BE THRILLED to illustrate a series with a spunky female lead character or a beloved duo like Ivy and Bean. Bonus if the story includes a cat!















AMYEVERSONART.COM

Amy Everson is an author-illustrator from Seattle. She has a degree in aerospace engineering and completed the Writing for Children series at the University of Washington. In her spare time she enjoys climbing mountains, martial arts, baking, and spending time with her husband and puppy, Luna.

I WOULD LOVE a project about engineering, a holiday theme, something with a Tim Burton vibe, or anything about the outdoors, cozy settings, and fun adventures.

















SOPHIEILLUSTRATES.COM SOPHILLUSTRATES

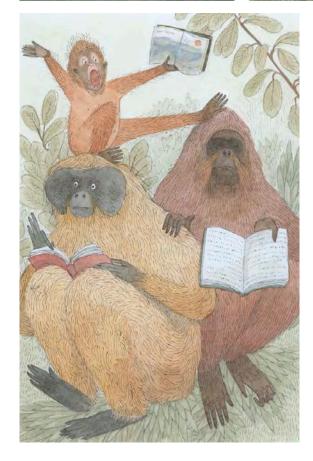
Sophie Gilmore is an author and illustrator living in London. She loves to illustrate animals behaving like humans and humans behaving like animals, and her work usually includes a handful of friends generally being a bit suspicious. Sophie's favorite things are swimming, reading, and eating unknown fruit straight off the tree.

Picture books that appeal to me are those that are wry and macabre. Edward Gorey, and the like. I'd like to make four books, one for each season, illustrating in detail the great many imagined and spedifi perils that the seasons can bring. Joys of spring? I think not.











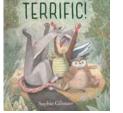


OWLKIDS





GREENWILLOW



PUBLISHED

GREENWILLOW

WESHARGIS.COM WESHARGIS

Wes Hargis is an author-illustrator living in Arizona. He began his career as an editorial cartoonist and honed his illustration craft late at night. When Wes is not writing or illustrating, he loves exploring the desert and eating Mexican food. He and his wife have three very opinionated kids.

It's hard to nail down an ideal, but I do love projects where I'm developing humorous characters. Whether I'm working on a personal project or working with an editor, molding a unique character through

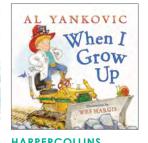




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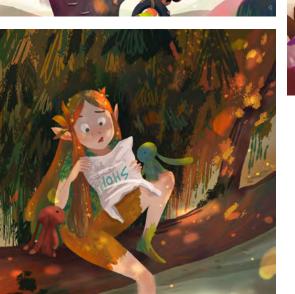


Catmouse James is a cartoonist and illustrator experienced in graphic design and based in Madagascar. Her published works include the French-language comic book series ARY. She is excited to turn to an English-speaking readership and spotlight marginalized stories.

To me, the perfect picture book to illustrate features illustrations of marginalized people, fantastic creatures, unique settings, breathtaking environments, poetic words, and hidden but strong messages which stay with the reader after the last page.















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LITAJUDGE.ME 🔰 LITAJUDGE 🙆 LITAJUDGE 🗗 LITAJUDGE

Lita Judge is the author-illustrator of 30 books and lives in New Hampshire. She grew up with ornithologist grandparents who shared their home with eagles, owls, and other wild animals. Caring for wild things sparked her imagination and led her to draw whimsical characters that retain their inner animal truths.

I LOVE characters who appear vulnerable or quirky, but roar with spirit and strength. I'm at home depicting our lush natural world. I also love travel sketching through Europe and would swoon at a chance to create settings inspired by crumbling castles or secret gardens.

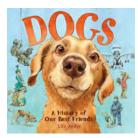






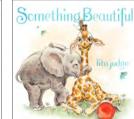


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FLIGHT SCHOOL







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ELIZABETHLAMPMANDAVIS.COM JUZLAMPMANDAVIS

Elizabeth Lampman Davis is a Florida-based illustrator with a degree in Creative Writing and Studio Art. She specializes in painting joy-filled characters, light, and magic. She has a passion for illustrating underrepresented families like her own. When she's not daydreaming or drawing, she's just another marketing professional being sat onby a cat.



As a recovering empath, I'm here for all-the-feelings, dramatic characters in hilarious or horrifying situations. Bonus if there's a way to work in nature, magic, mystery, or imaginary places.











MARSLAUDERBAUGH.WEEBLY.COM

Mars Lauderbaugh is a nonbinary, self-taught artist living in the Pacific Northwest. They work primarily with cover art, comics, and character design, with extra love for outer space, magic, and queer themes.

I LOVE drawing space, fantasy, and any character that makes me really think about what goes into their design! I'm particularly fond of queer characters whose stories don't center solely on their queerness. Any kind of sword is a sword I want to draw.









STEPHLITTLEBIRD.COM JARTNERDFOREVER O ARTNERDFOREVER

Steph Littlebird is an artist, curator, writer, and a member of Oregon's Grand Ronde Confederated Tribes. Her visual work frequently engages issues related to present-day Indigenous identities, marginalized histories, and responsible land stewardship. Steph currently lives and works in Las Vegas.

I get inspired by great stories. As a Native artist, it's an honor to help other Indigenous people bring their ideas to life. I am also an avid nature and animal lover, whenever I can create work on those subjects, I'm in!

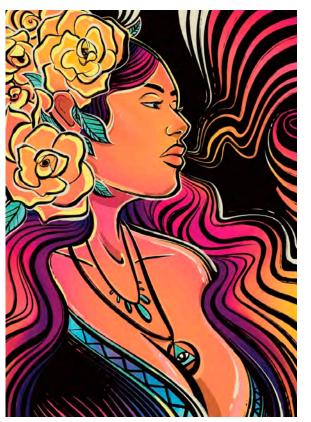














SASHAMAYER.MYPORTFOLIO.COM SASHAMAYERDRAWS

Sasha Mayer loves doodling. This passion, along with her whimsical style, led her to a career designing brands—including for Monster High and Barbie—and packaging for toys, games, and more. Sasha is now devoting her talent to picture books. She's an illustrator, writer, and graphic designer based in Los Angeles.

I LOVE drawing people. Mischievous kids with big emotional ups and downs are my favorite. Expressive, silly animal characters are a close second. I also enjoy using unexpected and selective color combinations to express a mood and set a scene.











Serena Mercado (she/they) is a freelance illustrator from Orlando whose work is inspired by history, folklore, and all things spooky. They aim to capture the whimsy and magic from their favorite childhood illustrations, and to incorporate POC into fantasy stories where they're not often represented.

I'M INTERESTED in stories that ground fantastical things in reality – I'd love to work on something with ghosts, a fairy journal, or a demigod's diary!













LAURENMUGFORD.COM JOEYHAZELLM5 OJOEYHAZELLM

Lauren Mugford (she/they) is a Canadian illustrator and graphic novelist with a love of genre-bending stories. She enjoys drawing diverse bodies, and exploring topics like gender, sexuality, and identity. When they're not drawing, you can find them making up recipes, taking long walks with a personalized playlist, and devouring film analysis.

I'M DRAWN to sentimental stories that have a slight edge but are ultimately optimistic. I like exploring the perspective of non-heroes and allowing them to be "ugly" and imperfect. I also love eclectic environments and expressive designs.







ISLAMYLES.MYPORTFOLIO.COM/WORK SPAINTED_ISLA PAINTEDISLA

Isla Myles is a Scottish, Singaporean, and Californian illustrator who is passionate about narratives that offer wonder, magic, and comfort in difficult times. Isla graduated with an illustration degree from SCAD and remains curious about all trades and studies. She knows that magic is real and hopes there are mermaids.

I LOVE anything related to the ocean, mythology, and travel, and I'm delighted by anything whimsical. I am especially passionate about everything Solarpunk and find the genre's ability to showcase solutions for tomorrow exciting.













NINARAMOS.ME YRAMOSNIINAA 🙆 NIINAARAMOS

Nina Ramos is a Brazilian illustrator based in Toronto, Canada. She is passionate about illustration, books in general, and tv animation. She continues to play with watercolor and colored pencils to hone her style.

I LOVE to draw magical and colorful things. I like to draw pages where the reader will be looking at the details, and exploring the drawing, for hours.













FEIWEL & FRIENDS

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BRANDONREESE.COM JBRANDONREESE

Brandon Reese is an author-illustrator whose clients have included Scholastic, Chronicle, Sterling, Buzzfeed, BOOM! Studios, Topps, and Grammy Award-winning musicians. He holds a degree in graphic design and lives in Mint Hill, North Carolina. When he's not creating or teaching, he enjoys skateboarding, camping, and hanging out with his wife and son.

I LOVE all things spooky! An illustration dream job would be to work on something in the vein of Charles Addams—dark and funny, but with heart.

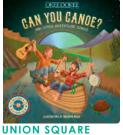








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DIANASCHOENBRUN.NET ODIANASCHOENBRUN



Diana Schoenbrun is an author-illustrator currently living in Brooklyn. She is a two-time gold medal book award winner from the Society of Illustrators. Diana has a BFA from RISD and received her MFA in Illustration from FIT. Diana is currently a professor of illustration at City Tech College.

I ENJOY the process of illustrating humorous and heartfelt characters with expressive personalities. My visual storytelling leans toward adventure but also everyday narratives filled wit quirky kid imagination. Nature, silly creatures, and music inspire my whimsical paintings.



TWOFISHILLUSTRATION.COM

Jacob Souva is an author-illustrator who used to think he was cursed with a runaway imagination and silly daydreams, but now he sees them as the bits that make up great stories. He's happy not to be cursed. He and his family live in a small community in upstate New York.

I'M PASSIONATE about stories that are equal parts humor and heart, share a unique and unexpected view of things, and elicit emotion from readers no matter their age. I want to be dazzled by unexpected characters and quirky turns. I also love illustrating bugs.











TUNDRA

TUNDRA







HEIDIBOOKS.COM JWWWHEIDIBOOKS OHEIDI.KIDS.BOOKS



Heidi Woodward Sheffield's debut book *Brick by Brick* received the Ezra Jack Keats Award for Illustration and was chosen by the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Heidi's vibrant collages feature unusual textures like cork, Mexican embroidery, and Irish lace.

MY DREAM picture book would encourage children to embrace themselves, just as they are. It might explore emotions and mindfulness through the world of collage.











ASHWU.CO.UK YASHJIANGWU OASHJIANGWU

Ash J. WU (he/they) is a queer author-illustrator based in England. He works as a storyboard artist for children's animation, which influences his vivid and lively style. He can often be found hanging out with his pets or frolicking in nature. He's interested in illustrating comics, middle grade, and covers.

I AM DRAWN to imaginary worlds, especially ones inspired by cultural mythology. I love fantasy stories that are full of heart and have a touch of darkness too. Illustrating a Ghibli-inspired graphic novel with queer characters would be the dream!









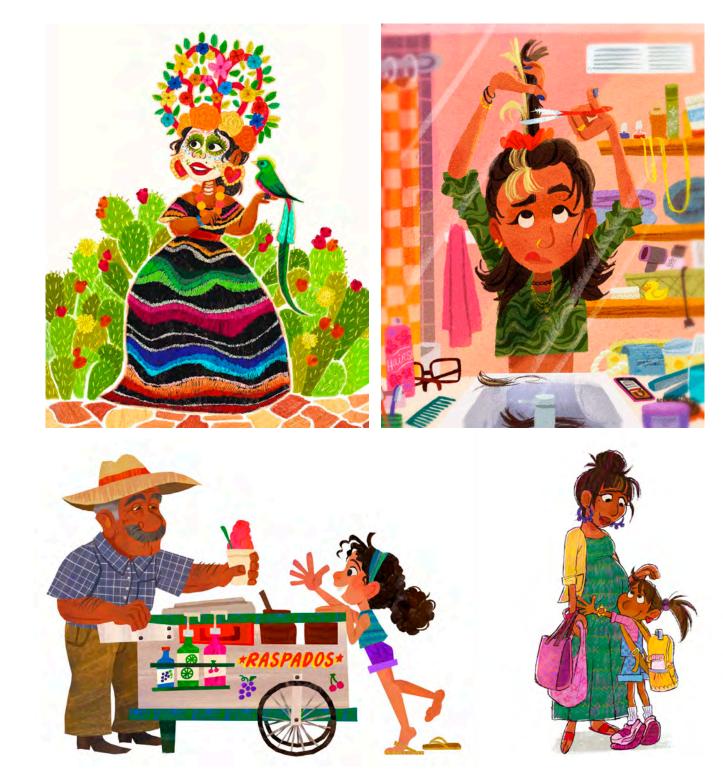




GABBYZAPATA.COM У GABBYZAPATA 🞯 GABBYZAPATA

Gabby Zapata is an artist based in Los Angeles who works in animation. She draws inspiration from her Mexican and Colombian heritage to create diverse and inclusive characters, rich in color and texture. When Gabby's not making art, you can find her collecting alebrijes and other colorful artisan home goods.

I'D LOVE to take on projects that explore traditional Mexican and Colombian cuisine, dancing, and Latinx women in history. I'm also interested in novelty and I'd love to work on a story about Día de los Muertos!



August Zhang is a first-generation Chinese Canadian illustrator based in Canada. Growing up, they discovered art as a reliable emotional outlet and continue to leverage that to this day. They love illustrating lively characters, diverse family dynamics, and scrappy, furry creatures.

I LOVE children's books with imperfect characters in a story that is goofy, touching, honest, or all three! I'd love to illustrate a wild beast and big emotions. Strong female leads, LGBT themes, and characters embracing their cultures are also a favorite.









