



JAMADEN.COM SURMULEFYR SURMULEFYR

**Jam Aden** (he/they) is a transgender cartoonist based in Copenhagen, Denmark. They are fascinated by magical things, and draw inspiration from folklore and nature. Jam graduated The Animation Workshop in 2017 with a degree in Graphic Storytelling; their debut YA graphic novel is forthcoming from First Second.

I LOVE folklore—my favorite types of stories involve mythical and mystical creatures interacting with normal people, and are full of intrigue and curiosity. It's even better if the characters are LGBTQ and there's a wolf or two!















Abigail Albano-Payton is an Afro Filipina artist whose work focuses on the underrepresented and dismissed, ranging from large scale paintings of BIPOC experiences to intimate multi-media representations of individuals. Abigail has a BFA in Drawing and Painting from Laguna College of Art and Design, California, and currently resides in Dallas, Texas.

**ENJOY** creating art that people can relate to, as it allows me to feel a more intimate connection with those who choose to interact with it. Whether positive or negative experiences,













OLIVIAAMOAH.COM JUVAMOAH AFIA\_ILLUSTRATION

**Olivia Amoah** is an illustrator from Northern Ontario with a BFA in Animation. Her kindergarten teacher described her as "the real-life Madeline" due to the unprompted adventures she would take her fellow peers on. She holds that adventurous spirit to this day and consistently explores her potential as an artist.

MY DREAM PROJECT would be humorous and whimsical, and include strong-willed characters with big personalities, or stories that connect me to my African heritage and love of nature.









Gianne Amparo is an illustrator based in Portsmouth, England. She loves illustrating charming characters in playful scenes and working with a limited color palette. Gianne's work is often influenced by everyday observations and childhood memories. Her days are spent sketching, daydreaming, and creating ceramics.

**I WOULD LOVE** to work on picture books with quirky characters In addition, I would also like to work on book covers, and projects















Princess Bizares is a Filipino American author-illustrator born in the Philippines and raised in California. After declaring that she wanted to be an artist at age five, she has worked tirelessly to fulfill that dream. Much of her work is inspired by nature, her family, and her roots as a Filipino.

Recently, I've enjoyed drawing whimsical animals wearing human clothes and doing human things. I'm also really passionate about creating artwork featuring different kinds of families, especially families like my own—big, beautiful, brown, and imperfect. Working on a picture book featuring either would be a dream!





















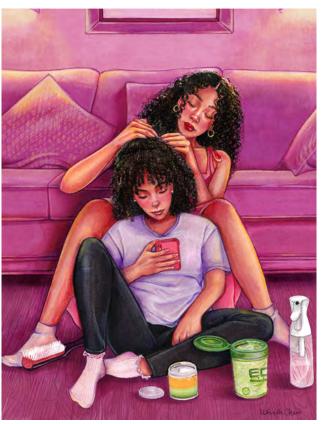
**Lisbeth Checo** is a Dominican American illustrator from NYC who can usually be found reading or creating art inspired by her favorite book characters. Lisbeth's photo-realistic illustrations are inspired by her passion for fashion and cultural identity. She has a BFA in illustration from Parsons School of Design.

**I'D LOVE** to illustrate diverse and empowered characters with big hair. I would also love to do anything fashion related where I can draw beautiful clothes and create colorful patterns.





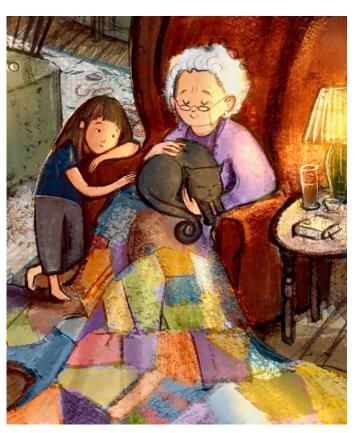




**Brittany Cicchese** is a Denver-based illustrator with degrees in English, Art, and Library Science. Brittany is deeply passionate about storytelling and the way stories connect us all. When not drawing, you can find her reading YA fantasy, spending time with family, or volunteering for the SCBWI Rocky Mountain Chapter.

MY IDEAL picture book would surprise the reader with













Lucas Elliott is an Alaskan-based illustrator and comic artist. He has worked on comics and character design, while also teaching illustration and graphic design at the local university. He is a fan of four things: coffee, pizza, his dog, and a good story. Not necessarily in that order. YEAH!

I LOVE drawing characters and stories that are full of expression and make people laugh. Whether it is a sci-fi adventure, a cooking competition, or just the best slumber party ever, it has to be fun and full of feeling.









**Leah Giles** is a storyteller and maker in Brooklyn. She draws, collages, and paints from her noisy little apartment with her pets scrambling at her feet. Leah is a fan of all things colorful, patterned, and full of heart. She loves fearless, playful characters and bright and bold families.



















Javier Giménez Ratti is an author-illustrator born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. After a quick dabble into fine arts, he found his true passion in illustration, where he has been working on children's books for 10 years. He has also created art for educational software companies.

I LOVE working on stories that are full of adventure and heart. It's fun to create dynamic images that tell the character's story through action and motion. The more adventurous, full of color and life, the better!























**PUBLISHED** 

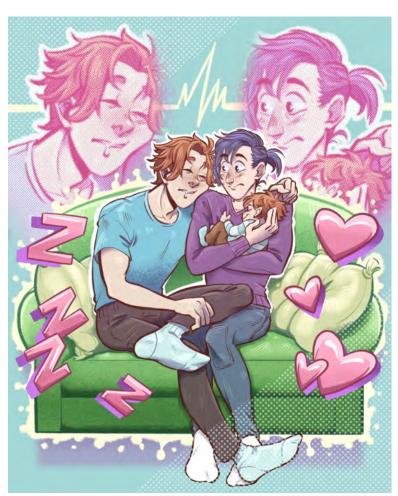
FRESHABOOKS FRESHABOOKS ULLMANN

ULLMANN

Yury Guzman is a Guatemalan American illustrator and comic artist. Her art centers around fantasy and queer themes. She works with digital mediums, her style focusing on playful linework and saturated color palettes to produce strong character-driven work. Her work incorporates a strong sense of narrative and facial expressions.

Friendships full of platonic love are great, and I wish I saw













CHIOMMANI.COM OCHIOMMANI

**Chiomma Hall** (she/they) is a Black queer illustrator based in Atlanta, Georgia. She earned her bachelor's degree in Art History at Auburn University and has been doodling sweet scenes of community ever since. When they're not illustrating, you can find them baking sweets, drinking tea, and spending time with loved ones.

I AM INTERESTED IN picture books and graphic novels with colorful counter-narratives that explore family, friendship, queerness, mental health, history, and minority communities. I love playful color, brave characters, and imagined worlds.









Marie Hermansson thinks there's nothing better than a walk through a garden on a warm summer day. She's an illustrator whose work combines her love of the natural world, curious kids, and lots of whimsical color. Marie currently resides with her husband and two young children in central North Carolina.

I LOVE to bring the wonders of nature into a kid's life through illustration, appealing to their innate curiosity illustrate transport kids to strange and wonderful places















NAZAHIDALGO.WIXSITE.COM/ILLUSTRATION MAZAILUSTRA NAZAILUSTRA





Nazareth (Naza) Hidalgo is an award-winning, Costa Rican illustrator. Inspired by the nature surrounding her home, she loves using vivid colors to create images of children in playful moments and whimsical ways. She is interested in working on picture books, chapter books, and middle grade covers and interiors.

I LOVE illustrating playful and inspiring stories, with brave, humorous characters of all backgrounds. Fantastical stories of witches, colorful rainforest creatures, or special family moments in the home are some of my favorites to illustrate.













Jackie Huang was born and raised in Missouri, and moved to Los Angeles, California to attend the University of Souther California's School of Cinematic Arts, then studied illustration at Art Center College of Design. There she found a new way of storytelling through her love of paper art and pop-ups.

I AM DRAWN to creating cute, charming characters in imaginary worlds, especially ones with animals. I love having the reader interact with the narrator. A dream













MICHELLEJINGCHAN.COM MICHELLIEART MICHELLIEART

**Michelle Jing Chan** is a queer Chinese American illustrator who lives in the Pacific Northwest. Inspired by her love of fantasy, her work captures ordinary moments through a lens of magic and wonder. Michelle is drawn to whimsical, inclusive stories. She aspires to illustrate picture books, middle grade covers/interiors, and YA covers.

I LOVE heartfelt stories featuring lyrical imagery and diverse characters. My dream project would be a story inspired by cultural mythology, or one that tackles emotionally complex topics like intergenerational trauma or navigating queer identity. Something like Eyes that Kiss in the Corners meets Encanto!











Luisa Leal grew up in Maracaibo in Venezuela, and now calls Nevada home. She has a degree in Graphic Design, and in her day job, creates visually stunning games with character design and storytelling. Luisa loves to create colorful and magical worlds, and she is currently illustrating three books in an early reader series for Scholastic in her illustration debut.

My fondest childhood memories involve my family: listening to music with my mom, going on adventures with my dad, and playing sports together. I would love to illustrate a thrilling sports-packed adventure, a heartwarming family story, or a story about music changing the world."



















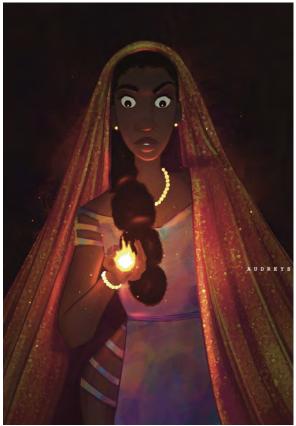
Audrey J. B. Sakho is a Senegalese illustrator. She loves making colorful illustrations inspired by childhood memories, but also by her emotions, to bring joy and connect with anyone who comes in contact with her work.

MY IDEAL STORY would be about the everyday life of an African kid but in a more adventurous and magical way. With such a book, African kids could relate to the stories but also develop and explore their own imagination.











Darin Shuler received a BA with a focus in illustration from The Evergreen State College. His first children's book, a graphic novel early reader, Dog & Hat and the Lost Polka Dots, is new from Chronicle, with a sequel to follow. Darin lives in Washington state with his family.

I find myself bogged down by the responsibility and feel like play; my ultimate goal is to take silly, magical, impossible













Asia Simone is an illustrator/animator born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, where she also attended college at the University of the Arts. Her love for cartoons and comics drives her passion as an artist. She hopes to bring wonder and joy through stories that center ethnically diverse characters.

I WOULD LOVE to explore life through the lens of fantasy, both dark and humorous. I love drawing colorful, energetic scenes, and wildly cartoony expressions and poses that give us further insight into characters. I want to show what fun looks like on page!









Carlianne Tipsey is an award-winning illustrator and upcoming author-illustrator. She loves illustrating cute, silly, heartwarming images and wrangling her two beautiful interracial kids. In her free time (what's that?) she loves creating tutorials on Instagram and YouTube to inspire other artists to create their own cute stuff, too.

I have two passions in life: cute art and giggles. I would absolutely love to illustrate silly and cute stories that bring smiles

















**Thu Vu** is a Vietnamese American illustrator based in New Jersey with a love for bright colors and all things whimsical. She has a background in art education, and when she's not drawing or crafting, you can most likely find her attempting a new baking recipe.

As a mother of two daughters I have a passion for stories that have a strong female lead. I love stories dealing with big emotions through topics that center around diversity, unity, and companionship.









**Emanuel Wiemans** is a Dutch author-illustrator, animator, and storyboard artist who has illustrated over 20 children's books. When he's not drawing or writing, Emanuel loves reading graphic novels, playing jazz, and restoring vintage Vespas. He lives with his wife and two children in the Netherlands.

I'M DRAWN TO funny projects that are also a bit scary, and I'm immediately drawn to underdog stories. I love sequential

















**GROSSET & DUNLAP** 



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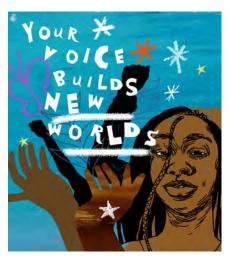
KAHYANGNI.COM O KAHYANGNI

**Kah Yangni** makes heartfelt art about justice, queerness, and joy. Their clients include *The New York Times*, Vice Media, and Chronicle Books, and they've worked with causes like the Transgender Law Center and the Movement for Black Lives. Kah's poster work is in the Philadelphia Museum of Art's permanent collection.

**I'M EXCITED** to make books that help shape kids into people who can help make the world better. I also love making art that inspires artsy folks, using neon and lots of color, and drawing strong girls, queer folks, and instruments (I play trombone!)















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