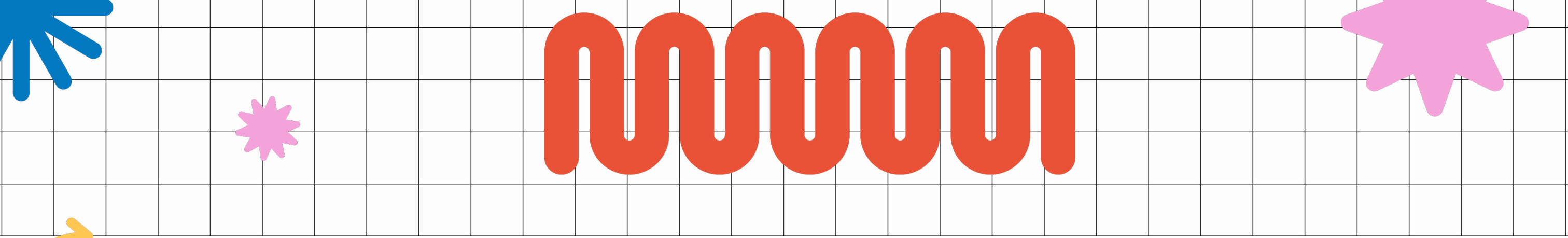


SVA
MFAVN

*thesis
show!*

We
**MADE
THIS!**

**CLASS
OF 2023**



featuring the works of:

JUSTIN ALTMAN

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SYDNEY CHAVAN

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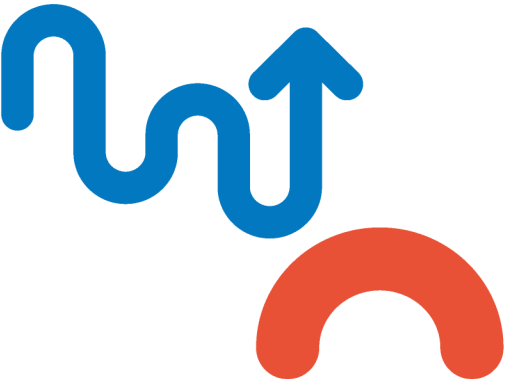
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AMOS STILLWELL

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gallery information

RECEPTION

JULY 21
TIME: 5pm-7:30pm
RSVP: [wemadethis.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

PROGRAM INFO

MFA VISUAL NARRATIVE
136 W 21ST ST
NEW YORK, NY
212.592.2388

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MFAVN@SVA.EDU

@MFAVN
#MFAVN

GALLERY HOURS

JULY 13 – JULY 25
MONDAY – SATURDAY
10am – 6pm
SVA GRAMERCY GALLERY
209 E 23rd STREET
NEW YORK, NY

RISOLAB

sketchboard **pro**



MFA Visual Narrative

faculty

- ANNA EVESLAGE PHOTOGRAPHER, WRITER
- ANELISA GARFUNKEL FILMMAKER, WRITER
- BILL KARTALOPOULOS EDITOR, CURATOR
- CHRISTINA ROUSSOS THEATER DIRECTOR
- DEMI LASHAWN KEILU FILMMAKER, DESIGNER
- JENNY GOLDSTICK NARRATIVE DESIGNER
- JONATHAN GOTTSCHALL WRITER
- JONATHON ROSEN ARTIST, ANIMATOR
- LEONARD MARCUS AUTHOR, HISTORIAN, CRITIC
- LUCEA SPINELLI PHOTOGRAPHER, WRITER
- MATT ROTA ILLUSTRATOR, AUTHOR
- NATHAN FOX ILLUSTRATOR, STORY ARTIST
- NICK FORTUGNO GAME DESIGNER
- NICK SCHIFF WRITER, POET
- PAN TERZIS ARTIST, PRINTMAKER, PUBLISHER
- ROBERT THILL ARTIST, AUTHOR, SCHOLAR
- STACY RENEE MORRISON PHOTOGRAPHER, AUTHOR
- SUSANNE REECE WRITER, ILLUSTRATOR
- TAYLOR SOKOLOWSKI DESIGN STRATEGIST
- TIM SZETELA DESIGNER, ANIMATOR

department administrators

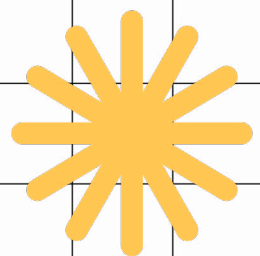
- BEN ZACKHEIM SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
- JOAN MCCABE ASSISTANT TO CHAIR
- LUCEA SPINELLI DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
- LESLIE ROSARIO-OLIVO PROJECT COORD.
- NATHAN FOX CHAIR

thesis mentors

- ANDREW MACLEAN COMIC BOOK CREATOR
- ANTHONY MARQUES ILLUSTRATOR
- BOB SHEA AUTHOR, ILLUSTRATOR
- CHEYENNE CURTIS DIRECTOR, DESIGNER
- DYLAN MECONIS CARTOONIST
- JOHNNY SAMPSON CARTOONIST
- LORI CHEATLE PRODUCER
- MAX ZHANG ILLUSTRATOR, SCULPTOR
- REBEKKA DUNLAP ILLUSTRATOR

thank you!

- ADAM CABLE GALLERY OPERATIONS MANAGER
- ANTHONY P. RHODES EXEC. VICE PRESIDENT
- ANDREW ALEXANDER RISO TECH
- ASHLEY CORTES GALLERY EXHIBITION COORD.
- CHRISTOPHER CYPHERS PROVOST
- DAVID RHODES PRESIDENT
- EMILY ROSS ASSOCIATE PROVOST
- EVAN PELTZMAN GALLERIES EXHIBITIONS COORD.
- FRANCIS DITOMMASO GALLERIES DIRECTOR
- PAN TERZIS RISOLAB DIRECTOR
- SARULA BAO ILLUSTRATOR, RISO TECH
- SHANNON JONES VFL OPERATIONS MANAGER
- SINCLAIR SMITH VFL DIRECTOR
- SYDNEY CHAVAN DESIGNER
- TYSON SKROSS GALLERIES EXHIBITIONS MNGR.



a note from the curators

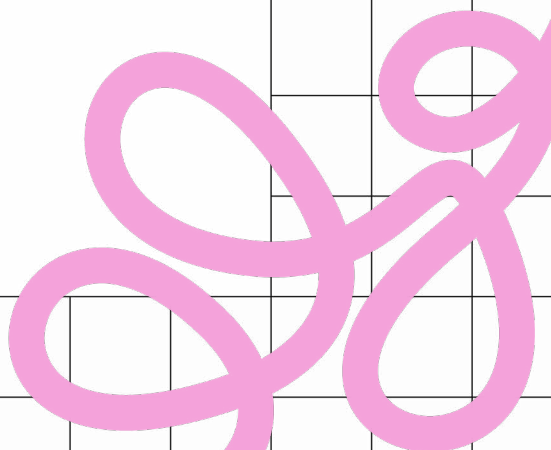
It's been ten years since the start of the MFA Visual Narrative program. These nine students represent the ninth graduating class. They also represent a fantastic evolution of visual storytelling within this program. What is integral is still integral. Whether they are a writer who is an artist, or an artist who is a writer, they are all storytellers.

As this program has changed, grown, become more itself, the same is true for this year's graduating class. They've honed their style, their voice, their vision – together. They took an individual sport and made it a team effort; getting each other past the blocks and the battles. Helping each other believe. Helping each other take the big risks that led to the original, surprising, and captivating stories that are exhibited here.

The connection that this group of artists has is palpable in their work (friendship and community are common themes), as is what makes them wholly their own. We sail the high seas, watch aliens overcome alienation, find purpose, find community, and find jokes. We explore other lands and alternate realities. And we do it through a range of mediums from comics to animation to documentary to picture books.

This ninth graduating class is the perfect way of marking ten years of our program, not only because of the range of methods and meanings behind their work, but because of the spirit of excellent, innovative, and personal storytelling at the heart of each piece.

ANELISA GARFUNKEL & CHRISTINA ROUSSOS



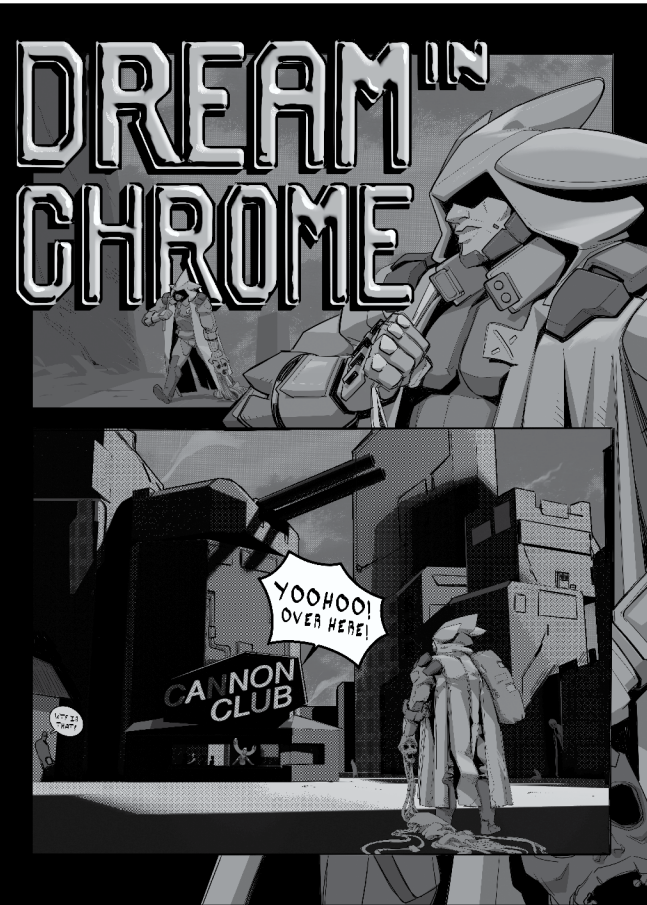
ART BY SEAN MAC



FM_01

JUSTIN ALTMAN

- MEDIUM: COMIC
- MENTOR: MAX ZHANG
- WEBSITES: JALTMANART.COM
JALMON.ART
- INSTAGRAM: [@JALMON](https://www.instagram.com/JALMON)
- TWITTER: [@NEVRBOT](https://twitter.com/NEVRBOT)



PROJECT SUMMARY

FM_01 is the first of three comics that take place in a post-humanist world that follow the exploits of FUCKMAN, a wandering mercenary trying to remember what the point of living was. Themes include fatherhood, post-capitalist dogma, and existentialism.

BIOGRAPHY

Justin Altman is an artist. He makes money as a Senior Visual Development Artist at Riot Games. He started a small collective called NEVR out of his garage. He likes making things and not much else. He's currently saving up for a bigger garage. Open to freelance and collaborations.



Dead Girl Dreams

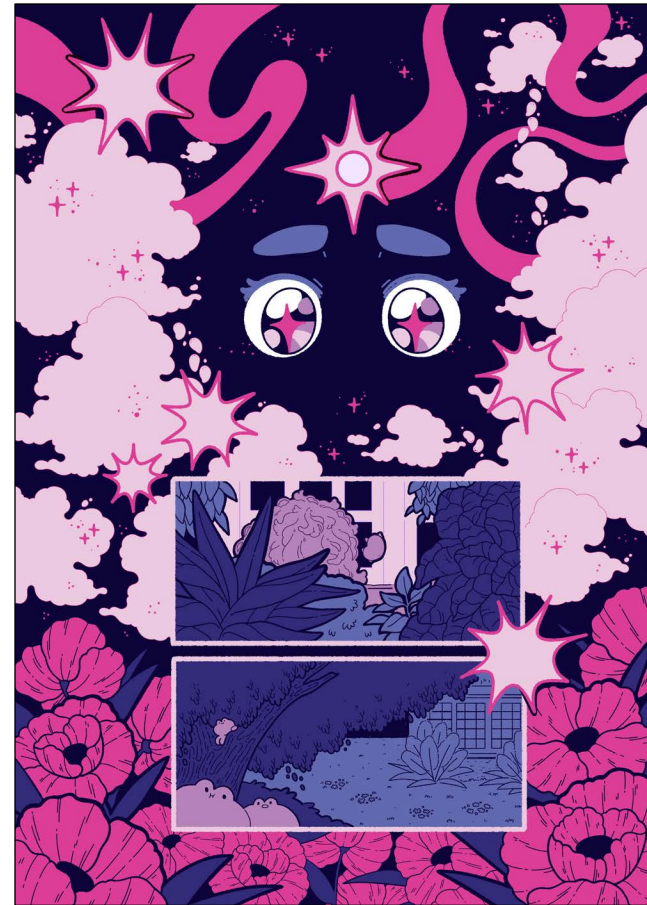
SYDNEY CHAVAN

MEDIUM GRAPHIC NOVEL

MENTOR REBEKKA DUNLAP

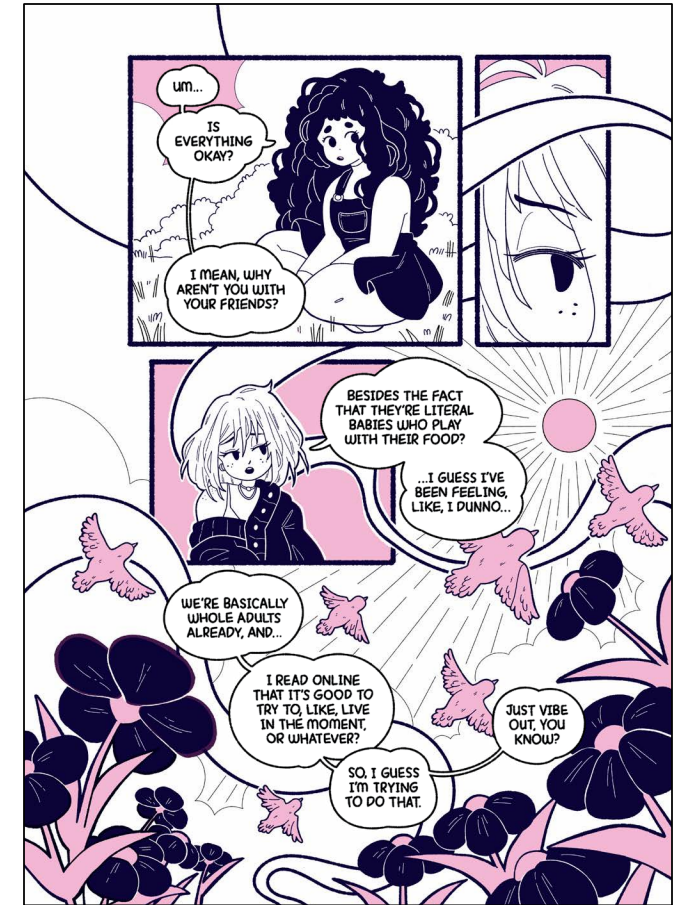
WEBSITE [SYDNEYCHAVAN.COM](https://sydneychavan.com)

INSTAGRAM [@SYDNEYCARTS](https://www.instagram.com/sydneycarts)



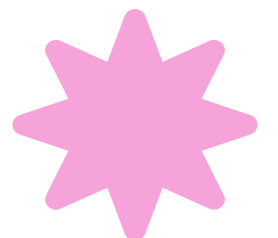
PROJECT SUMMARY

Dead Girl Dreams tells the story of timid teenager Codi Crane, who is being plagued by strange visions while she sleeps. On the eve of Codi's eighteenth birthday, her old childhood best friend, Lia Nightingale, suddenly goes missing without a trace. Codi soon finds herself under the watchful eye of Lia's mysterious grandmother Opal, who begins hinting that all is not as it seems. Codi's dreams soon guide her to the truth behind Lia's disappearance and the dark secret hidden deep within the history of the island where they live. Blending murder with magic, this graphic novel focuses on queer relationships, feminine power, and dismantling harmful traditions.



BIOGRAPHY

Sydney Chavan is a graphic novelist, illustrator, and designer known for her feminine-focused storytelling, bubbly art style, and huge passion for advocacy and positive social change. After graduating from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle with a BFA in Design, she did freelance design work before moving on to comics. She has self-published multiple stories about women and queer relationships that have been sold at comic festivals and bookstores around the world.





Guy Island

BASYA GOLDSTEIN

MEDIUM GRAPHIC NOVEL

MENTOR DYLAN MECONIS

WEBSITE BGOLDSTEIN14.WIXSITE.COM/portfolio

INSTAGRAM [@BASCOMIXS](https://www.instagram.com/BASCOMIXS)



PROJECT SUMMARY

Keira is sick of everything in her life—her job co-running a seaside pirate inn, her quiet village—and especially the utter lack of available guys who aren't either weird, gross, dull, or all of the above. The one bright spot for Keira is her best friend and co-innkeeper, Charlotte. Unlike Keira, Charlotte loves the routine and comfort of the life they've built together and doesn't want things to change. So when Keira gets a hold of a map to a mysterious too-good-to-be-true island, Charlotte is suddenly faced with the terrifying possibility of losing her best friend—and the stability of the life built around their friendship. Through their adventure-filled journey, Keira and Charlotte have to navigate the treacherous waters of change and figure out whether their friendship can bridge the rapidly forming gap between them.

BIOGRAPHY

Basya Goldstein is first and foremost a student! Like a golden retriever, Basya has boundless energy, loves meeting people, and is constantly drawing and creating stories... so maybe a slightly more versatile golden retriever. Basya has a BA in Art and English from Stern College and received a Masters in Biblical Interpretation while pursuing her Master of Fine Arts from SVA. She enjoys nerding out about animation, playing sports, and making too many analogies. Guy Island, for which she won a SketchBoard Pro Sponsorship, is Basya's debut graphic novel.



Stripped

SEAN MAC

MEDIUM	GRAPHIC NOVEL
MENTOR	JOHNNY SAMPSON
CREDITS	COLORIST AARON PITTMAN
WEBSITE	SEANMAC.ME
INSTAGRAM	@SUGAR.BRO
TWITTER	@PET_WURM

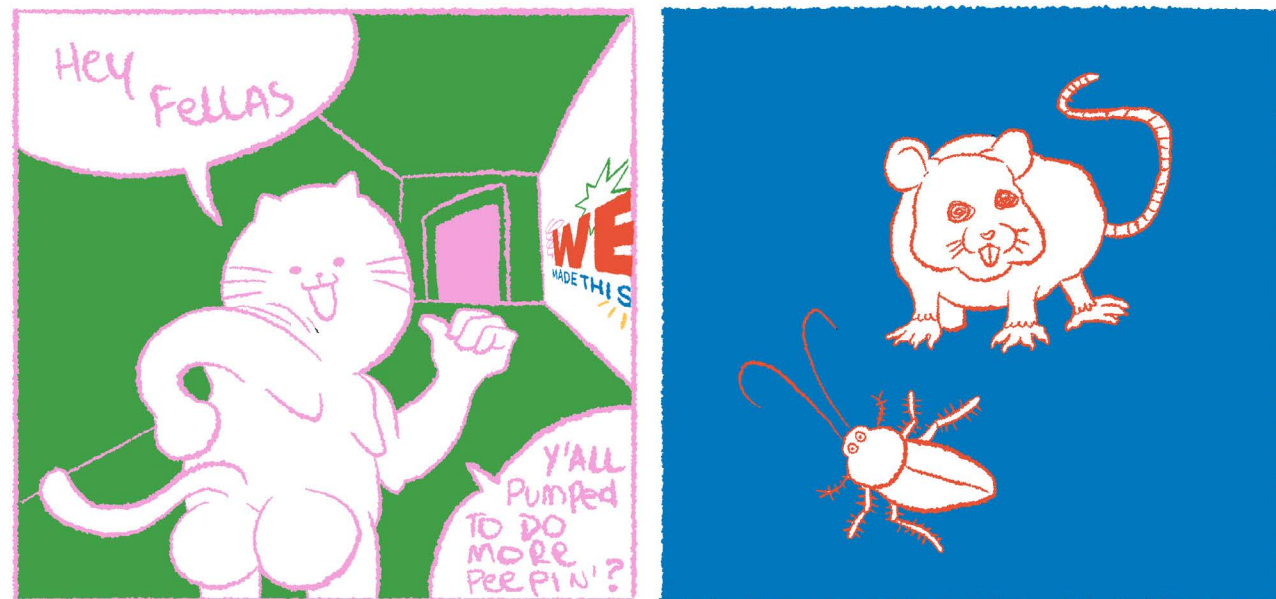


PROJECT SUMMARY

Ah, the funny section of the newspaper. Really the only section of the newspaper people care about anymore. Or do they? Do people even read the comics? Here is where the story of Stripped is set in motion. Welcome to Strip Co., a rinky-dink provider of comic strips for your local newspaper. Being a comic strip character ain't what it's cracked up to be. The work is hard and provides low pay with no benefits. Times are tough, and management is only making it worse when one of the comic strip characters gets replaced with a robot. The gang struggles to find relevance in a world where cartoon characters are expendable, and corporate profit strips them of any chance they have at making a decent living for themselves. Join us, friends, for a comic about comics about comics.

BIOGRAPHY

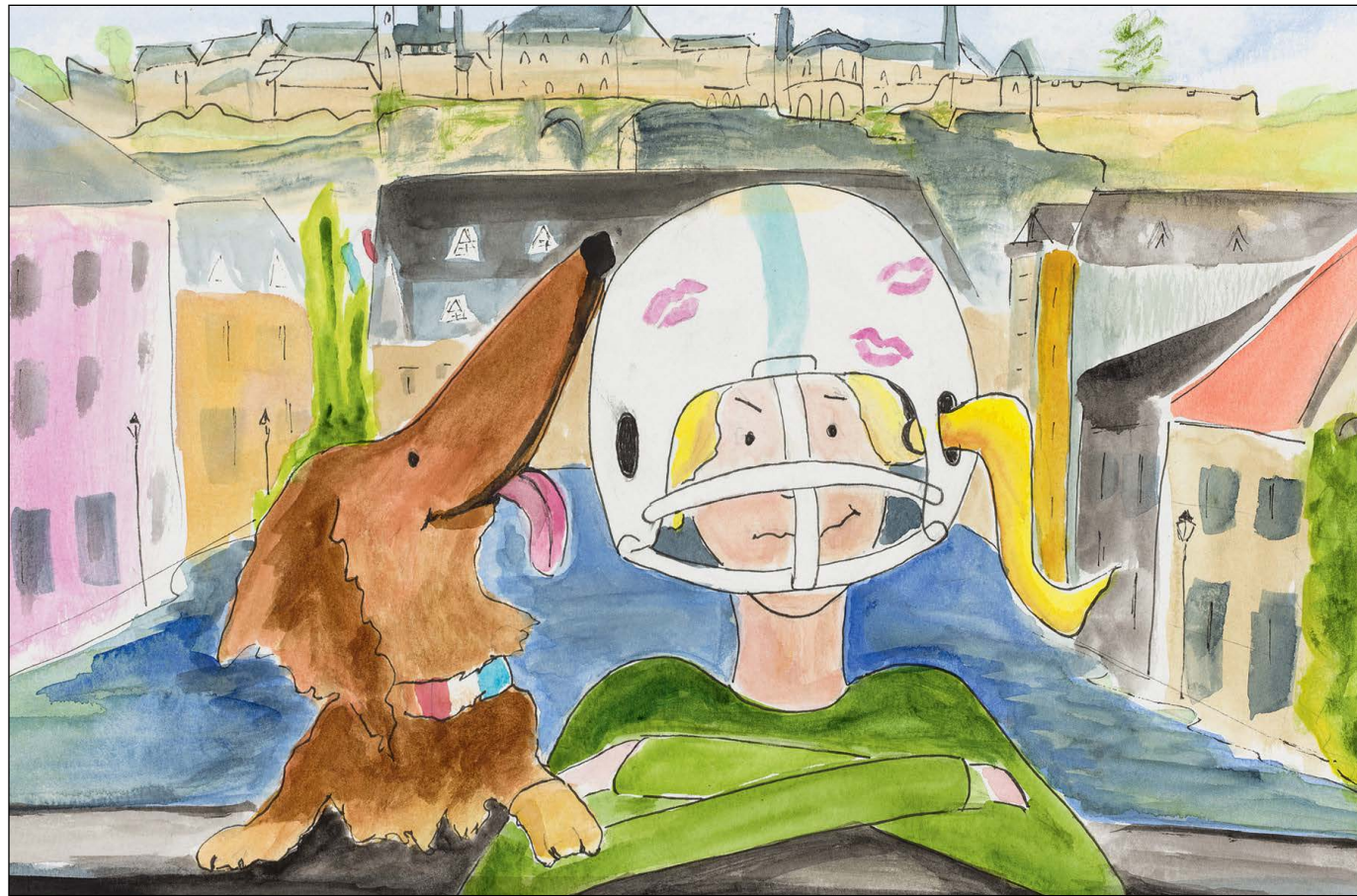
Sean Mac is a cartoonist and illustrator who has been drawing since he learned to suppress his feelings. From the snappy, excited highs to those murky, goopy lows, he's used all avenues of his life to inform his comics. Through underground comics communities and the power of Risograph printing, Sean has embraced self-publishing and brought his work to local Chicago comic book shops and the occasional comic convention. His goal with his work is not just to make himself laugh, but to connect with people and offer a realistic view of the existential predicament we humans have found ourselves in.



ART BY RAFAEL PEARL



ART BY AMOS STILLWELL



Smooch, Smack, Mwah!

ERIN CASEY MCNICHOL

- MEDIUM** CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK
- MENTOR** BOB SHEA
- CREDITS** *GRAPHIC DESIGN* COLLEEN MOTE
- WEBSITE** ERINPCASEYMCNICHOL.COM
- INSTAGRAM** [@MIXEDMEDIAERIN](https://www.instagram.com/MIXEDMEDIAERIN)

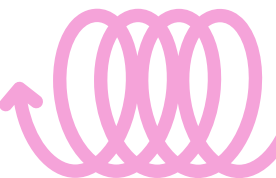


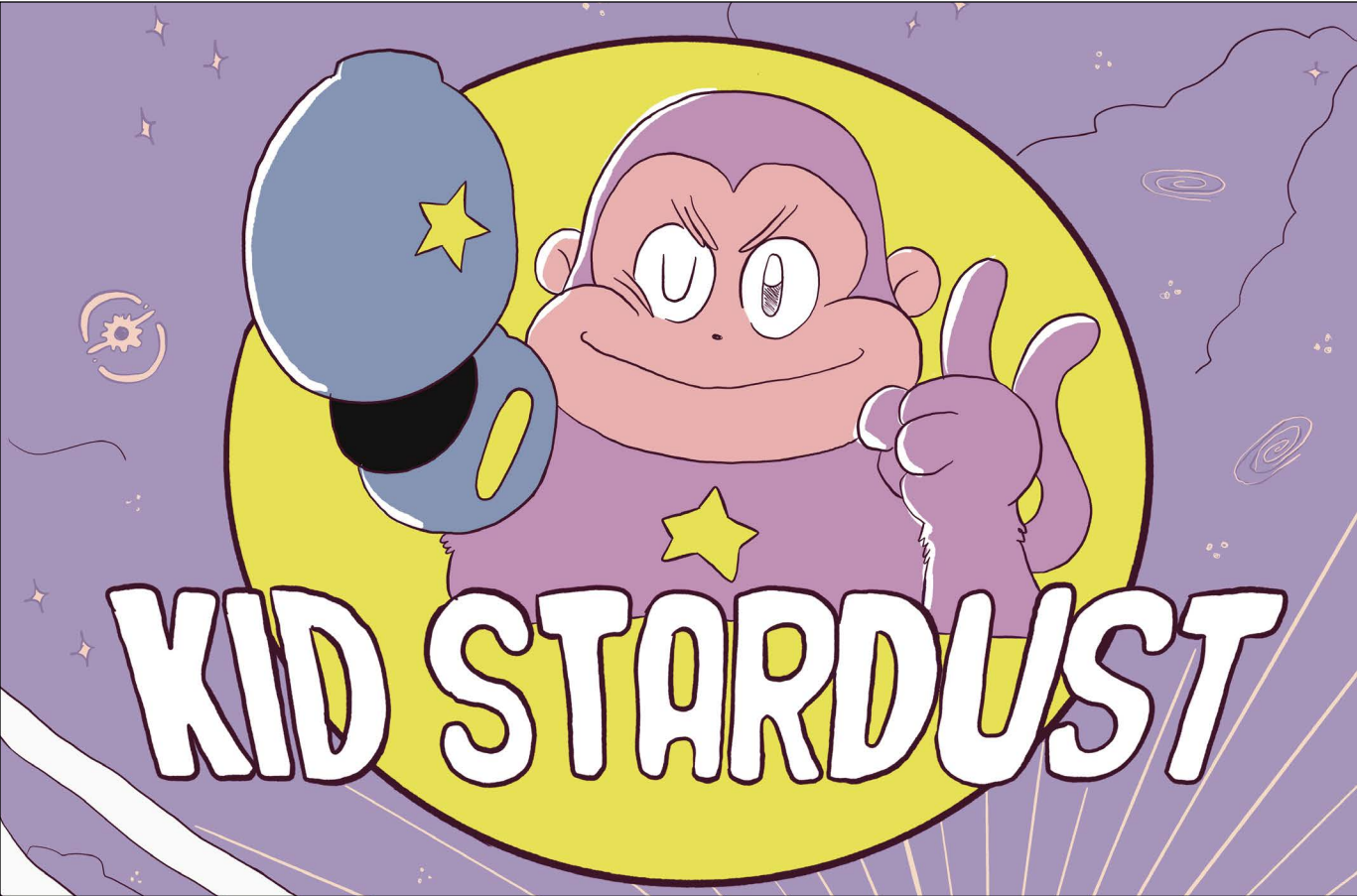
PROJECT SUMMARY

When a kiss-averse 8-year-old girl moves to Luxembourg – one of the kissiest places in the world -she does everything she can to avoid the local custom of three kisses. When a neighbor needs her help, she finally dives headfirst into the culture and embraces her new home. Smooch, Smack, Mwah is a love story to Luxembourg. The rhymes provide a rhythm that carries you into the illustrated and collaged city. Young readers will get a delightful dose of a new culture and learn alongside the main character as she adapts to new ways of doing things at her own pace and on her own terms.

BIOGRAPHY

Erin Casey McNichol is a Delaware-based artist, writer, and educator with an early career in corporate advertising and public relations. She has spent the last 17 years preparing young women for futures in entrepreneurship and visual arts. Erin also lived in Luxembourg for six years with her family, where she launched her art career and became best known for her lithograph series of the country's monumental women, one of which the Grand Duchess owns! Her mixed media art mirrors her hybrid skill set for compelling storytelling across multiple audiences. Erin was awarded an Educator Scholarship for this MFA program based on her engaging art and social innovation work with students.





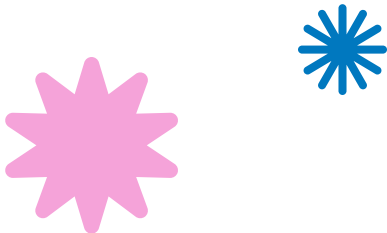
Kid Stardust: *Romance of the Divine Arms*

RAFAEL PEARL

MEDIUM COMIC

MENTOR ANDREW MACLEAN

INSTAGRAM [@OL.RAFIKI](#)



PROJECT SUMMARY

Kid Stardust: Romance of the Divine Arms is the first of a forthcoming graphic novel series written and illustrated by Rafael Pearl. It is a comical adventure story with elements of science fiction, sword and sorcery, and late 90's/early 2000's Nickelodeon humor.

The first issue is the account of a young monkey named Kid Stardust who witnesses a pair of falling stars. Touching one of the stars grants Kid Stardust "The Right Divine Arm", a prosthesis with the ability to fire destructive laser beams.

Reveling in this newfound strength, Kid Stardust resolves to find the second fallen star and wield power formidable enough to reverse death itself.

Later issues will chronicle Kid Stardust's pilgrimage as he treads the far corners of the world under his prehensile paws, meeting friend and foe and uncovering the secret of "The Divine Arms".



BIOGRAPHY

From the earliest of primordial glimmers until the first of the radiant dawns, Rafael Pearl spent his life underground as a hairy baby. His emergence was met with fanfare by the village folk who bore witness, and from his throne of upturned dirt, Rafael declared: "I have written a comic".

Rafael Pearl graduated from City College of New York with a BFA in Creative Writing. He obtained his MFA in Visual Narrative from the School of Visual Arts.





Blitzar Park

MARIAH PLAKAS

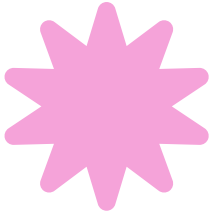
MEDIUM ANIMATIC

MENTOR CHEYENNE CURTIS

CREDITS CONTRIBUTOR SVA BFA ANIMATION

WEBSITES COFFEERAPTORS.COM

INSTAGRAM [@COFFEERAPTORS](https://www.instagram.com/COFFEERAPTORS)



PROJECT SUMMARY

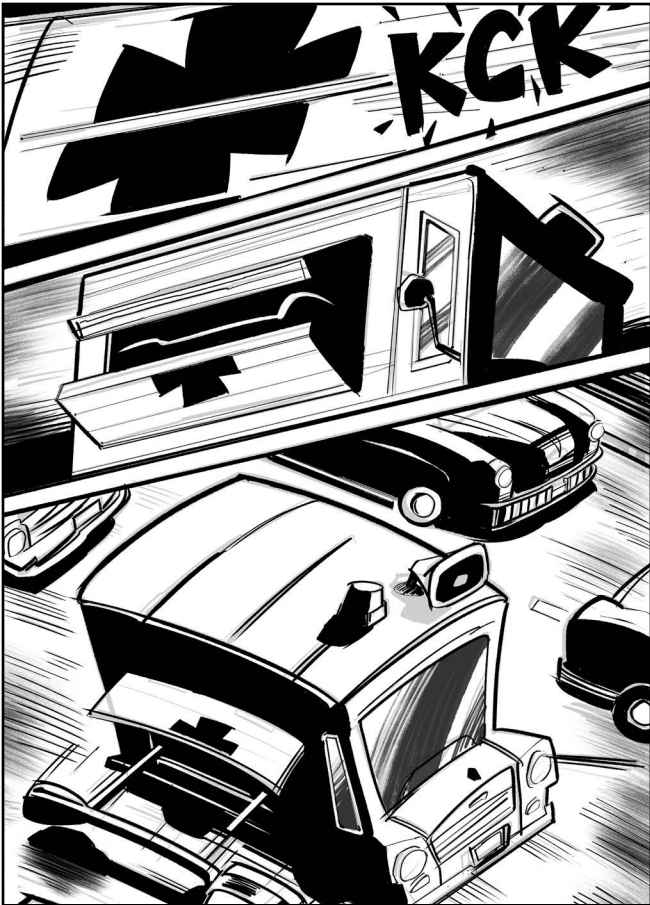
A local theme park that moonlights as a hidden base for a migrant alien species is under threat when our protagonist, Addie, discovers their unique food supply is dramatically diminishing. Despite everyone's reluctance to help, Addie takes the lead to save her species and the theme park, so they can stay on Earth—a place Addie now calls home.

Blitzar Park is an animated television series about the emotional destruction of a dysfunctional home.

BIOGRAPHY

Mariah Plakas is a visual storyteller residing in New York. Her colorful and nostalgic artworks have been featured in numerous exhibitions and art festivals. Plakas received a BFA in Studio Art through Adelphi University, where she minored in Graphic Design and Art History, and was presented with the Conger Goodyear Award for Studio Art. Plakas acquired an MFA in Visual Narrative from the School of Visual Arts and was awarded the Sketchboard Pro Thesis Sponsorship Award for her animated show, *Blitzar Park*.





Dr. Peace in the Third Dimension

AMOS STILLWELL

MEDIUM	COMIC
MENTOR	ANTHONY MARQUEZ
CREDITS	FLATTER ALEXA BOSY COPY EDITOR ERIC WALLS
WEBSITES	AMOSILLUSTRATED.COM
INSTAGRAM	@AMOSSTAMOS



PROJECT SUMMARY

When crime comes knocking at your door, never fear! There's a new cure in the city of Medopolis. It's Doctor Peace. This doctor cures all of their will to commit crimes with his various prescribable treatments and sprays. But while Peace can be a cure in his home of the comic book dimension, when his arch nemesis sends him to the real world, everything gets turned upside down. Will Doctor Peace be able to survive in a world where all his gadgets and trickery have no meaning? Will he even have the skill and ability to get his degree and become a "real doctor"? Find out in the exciting new series: *Doctor Peace in the Third Dimension*.

BIOGRAPHY

Amos Stillwell is a Los Angeles-based artist who hails from Boston, Massachusetts. He has an incredibly reasonable goal of drawing funny faces for a living. When he isn't watching cartoons or drinking a medically inadvisable amount of coffee, Amos likes to draw comics and storyboards. He is currently pursuing his MFA in Visual Narrative and hopes to continue to grow his body of work.





What We Discover Along the Way

ROSE VINCELLI GUSTINE

MEDIUM SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILM

MENTOR LORI CHEATLE

CREDITS *DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, CAMERA, AND EDITOR* ROSE VINCELLI GUSTINE
ADDITIONAL CAMERA ANA MONTGOMERY-NEUTZE
SOUND MIX JEN HITT
COLOR CORRECTION CHRISTA MAJORAS & KRISTIAN GONZALES

WEBSITE RVINCELLI.WIXSITE.COM/GARLICPARTYDOCS

INSTAGRAM [@GARLICPARTYDOCS](https://www.instagram.com/GARLICPARTYDOCS)
[@VIDEOROSE](https://www.instagram.com/VIDEOROSE)



PROJECT SUMMARY

Imagine a green place. A river rushes by; cardinals chirp. Walking with your friend, you find a feast: dandelion and purslane for salad, some raspberries. Now, tuck this place between elevated trains and high-rises in the Bronx. Still a verdant oasis, just—different.

This is the Bronx River Foodway, an edible city park tended by herbalist Journei Bimwala, that gives free public access to healing herbs and fruits. Foraging is illegal in New York City, as in much of the U.S., a holdover of old, racist laws designed to keep free Blacks and Native Americans off the land. For Journei, land stewardship is an act of reparations: “This was taken from us— this ability to heal and feed ourselves. And if you take something from me, I’m going to take it back.”

At the Foodway, we are nourished by the park’s bounty and community, reminding us that even and especially in the city, we are rejuvenated by connection to the land.



BIOGRAPHY

Rose Vincelli Gustine is a creative non-fiction filmmaker. *What We Discover Along the Way* is her directing debut. She is also producing the feature documentary *The Sum of Our Parts*, a queer love story about justice and healing. She co-produced *Busy Inside* (PBS “America Reframed”) and other films. She is Director of Operations of SVA - MFA Social Documentary Film, and was a film curator for The Gotham and AFIDocs. She is food-obsessed, and lives, walks, and cooks with her family in Brooklyn.





ART BY JUSTIN ALTMAN

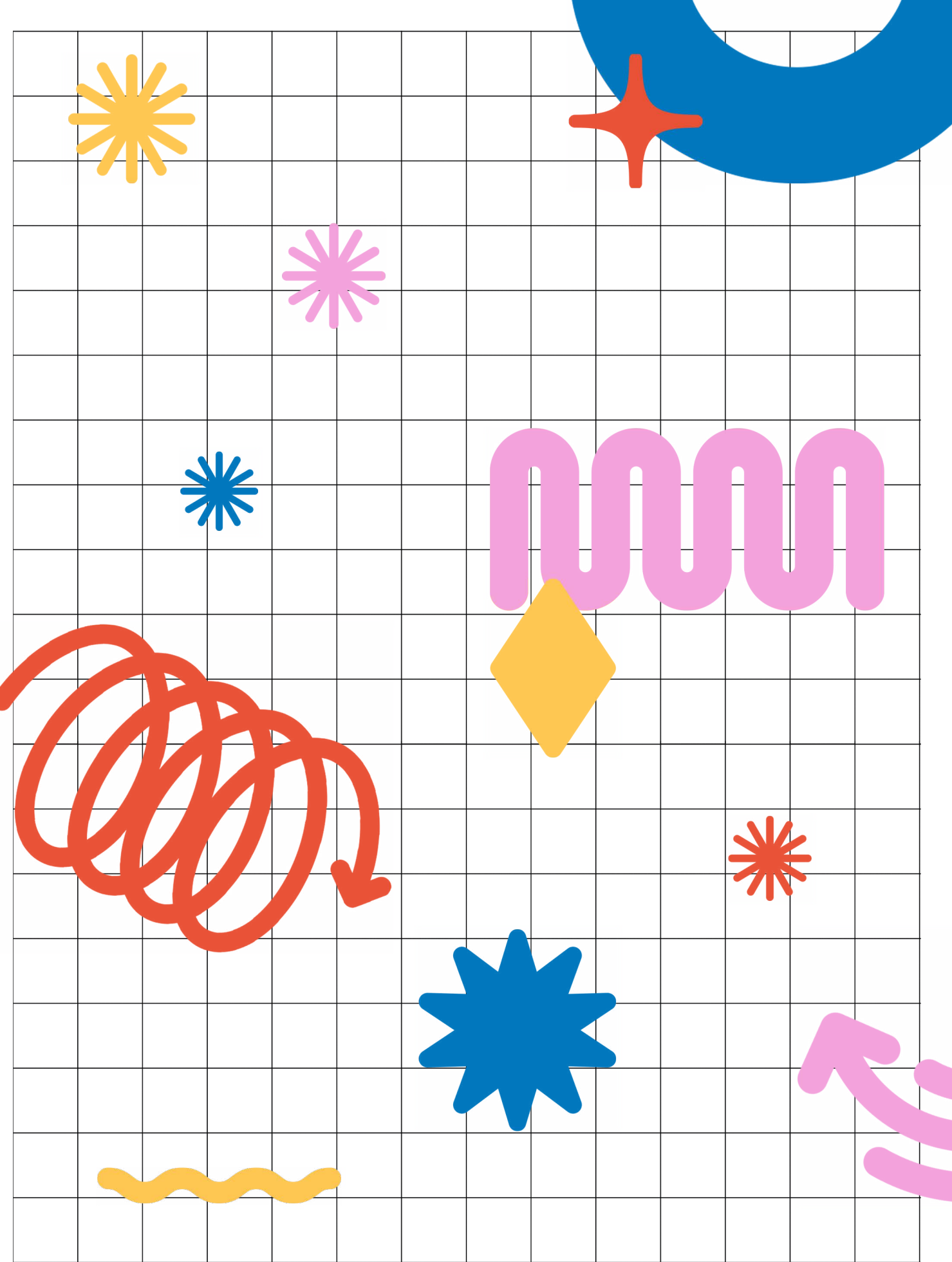
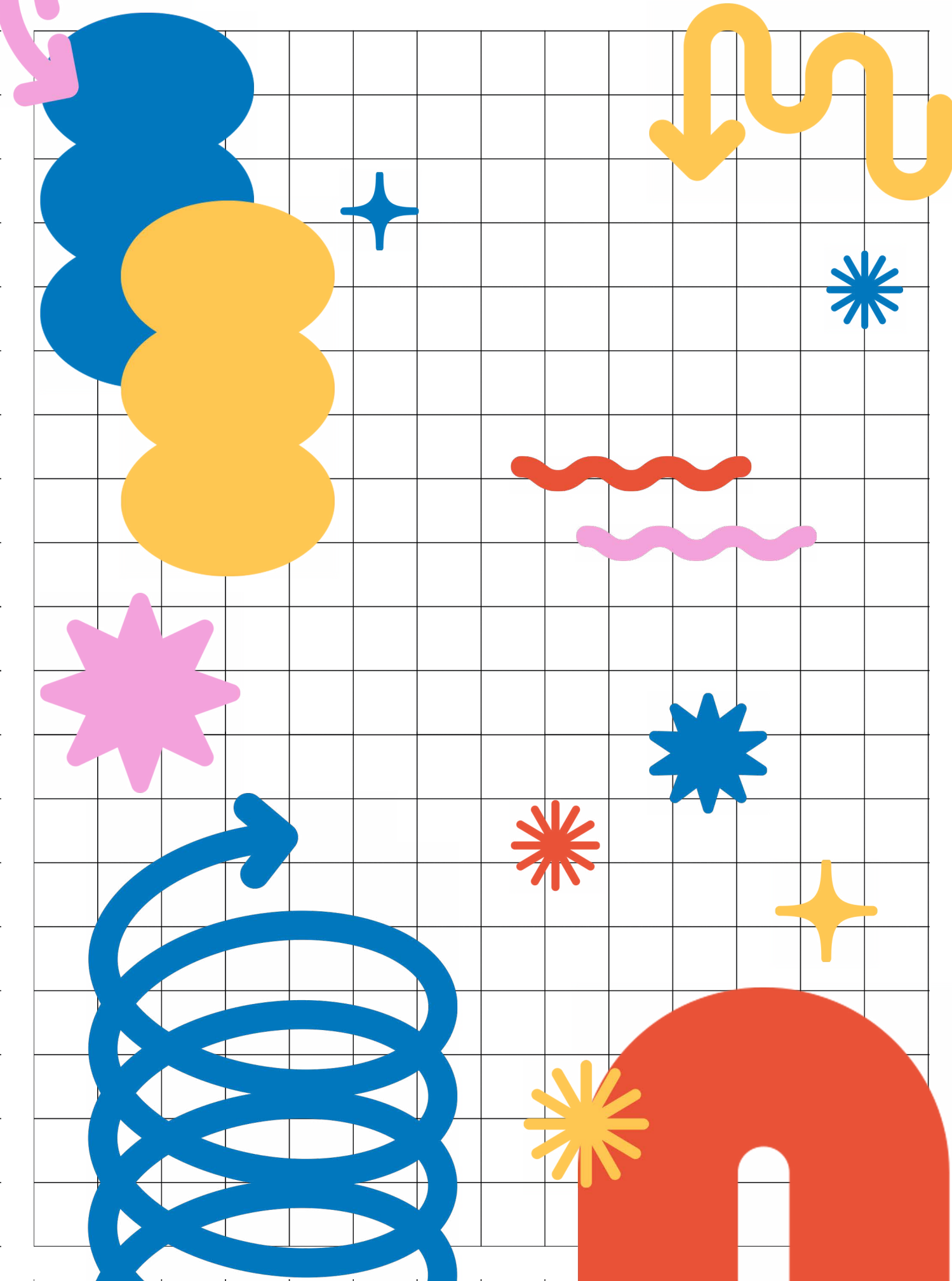
where artist meets author

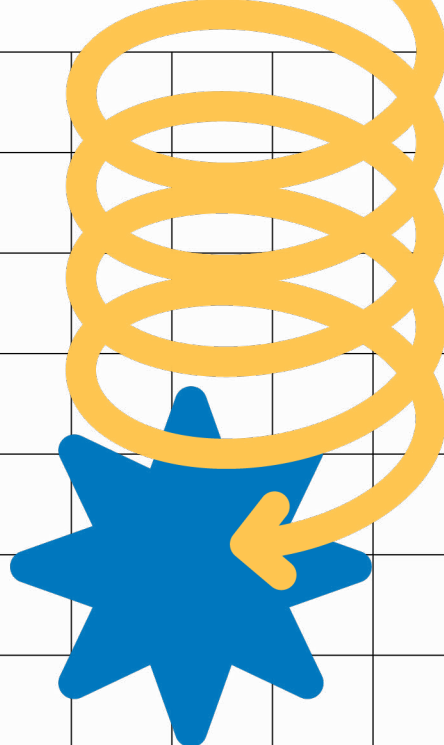
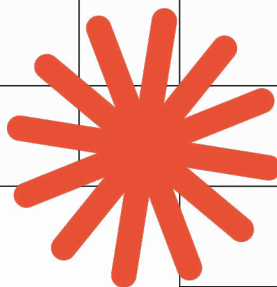
The MFA Visual Narrative program offers a fresh perspective and bold alternative to traditional MFA programs. We do so by recognizing that a command of story is the most powerful and fundamental foundation an artist in any creative profession can possess. Exceptional and effective storytelling isn't conveyed in beautiful words, images, or character plot alone. Audiences only become invested with an insatiable "need to know what happens next" when they personally connect and empathize with a story's message or protagonist on a personal and internal level—the challenges they face, why they make the choices they do, and how they become forever fundamentally changed by them. That realization and empathy with the true meaning and purpose of a story's message or protagonist's struggle is what makes stories so powerful, immersive and moving—and why stories matter to us all.

Our educational mission is to inspire all students to harness their collective creative writing and visual development talents to amplify their visual narrative skills, and master their personal command of story. Our graduates are empowered to be the next generation of transformational, relevant original content creators. The MFA in Visual Narrative program prepares them for leadership, with the confidence to own their personal voice and the visual narrative expertise to change the world through story.

If you are ready to test the limits of your skills and what your stories are capable of, we invite you to join us!

NATHAN FOX
CHAIR





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