

KRISTY MARY



MY PORTFOLIO

FOLKTALES & ILLUSTRATIONS
FROM A WANDERING ARTIST





About me

Heyoo! I'm Kristy Mary, also known as The Wandering Artist, and sometimes to some old-skool scouts, Krittta. I'm an amateur artist and illustrator from the Northern Rivers in NSW Australia and I'm looking to find illustration or art jobs and collaborations in the creative industry. I hope to work with a team to build, learn, and contribute to something big, and purposeful.

I'm a traveller, with a love for folktales and fantasy stories and illustrations. I aim to illustrate and create bodies of work in a way that others can see what I see - the unusual possibilities in something otherwise perceived as ordinary. That's the whole point of being an artist right? It's such a magical concept that imagination itself even exists, it triggers my existential pondering and sets the creativity wheels in motion.



About my art

I've affectionately named my entire profile of work *Creatures of Tale & Wander*, which is something that started as a fascination (and still) with folklore and folktales from all different cultures.

Stories have such a strong influence on how we evolved through history because they are the way we explain both the unexplainable and the factual - it's a wonderfully contrasting

idea that exists in the interpretations of the human mind.

So naturally, I enjoy creating images that are elements of what is factual and elements of the unexplainable, or perhaps, fantastical. I hope to convey my vision of flow in my composition, a grounding in the colours I blend, and stir questions in the viewers minds.





Creature Design

My creature designs mostly come from a lot of loose drawings, shapes, shading, lines. I'll often see the flow of the overall picture before anything else. Skin texture, imperfections, disproportionate features, plant and animal hybrids.

When colouring I will usually turn to earthy colours. When I think of the creatures I want to illustrate, earthy colours correlate with my feelings towards vintage-style, mythical beings. I love the flexibility of blending colours into many versions of themselves so it doesn't ever feel like a limited palette.

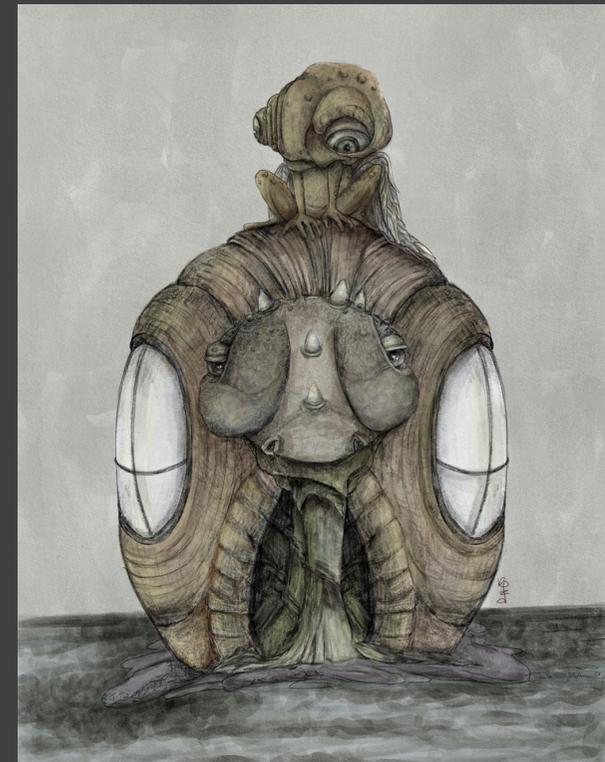
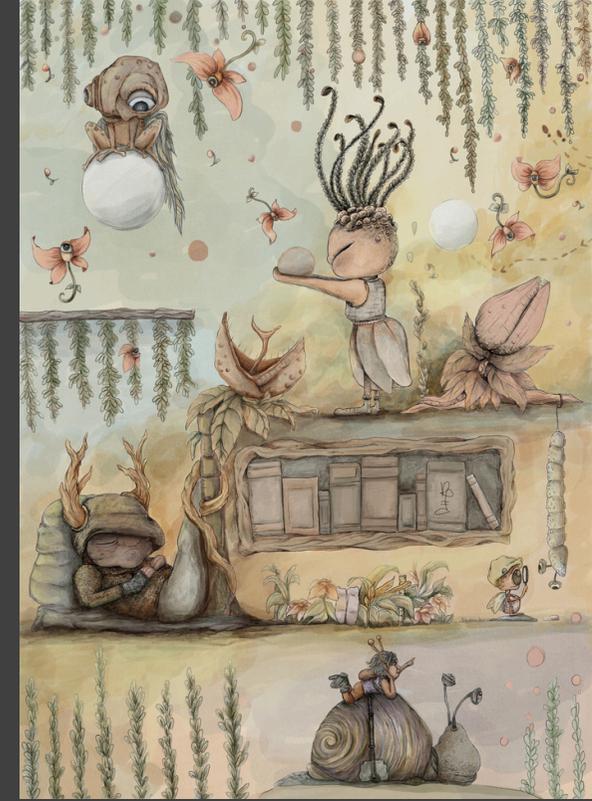


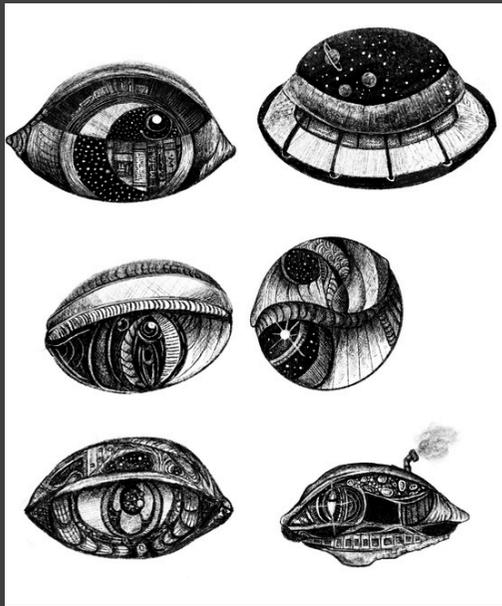


Digital Art

I began using Procreate simply for the convenience of "art on the go" - a way to travel lightly and still be an artist. Skeptical of the stigma around digital art, I found it quite rewarding. I could still keep my not-so-perfect lines and teach myself more about colour palettes and composition.

It's been a great tool for book illustrations and greeting card designs (a business I ran for a few years under The Wandering Artist banner). I still keep my sketchbooks on me though, because it's also nice to stay grounded in raw materials.

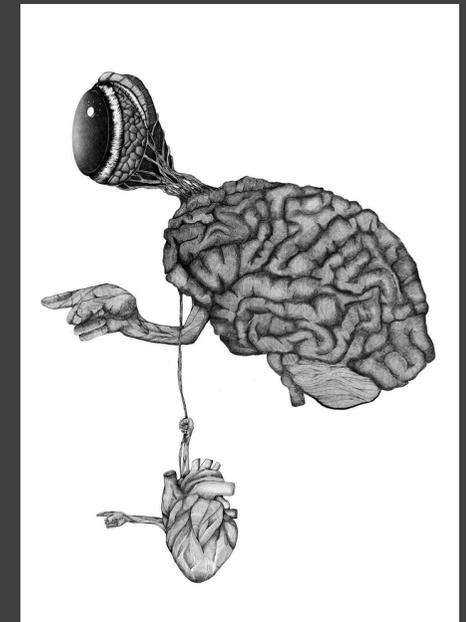
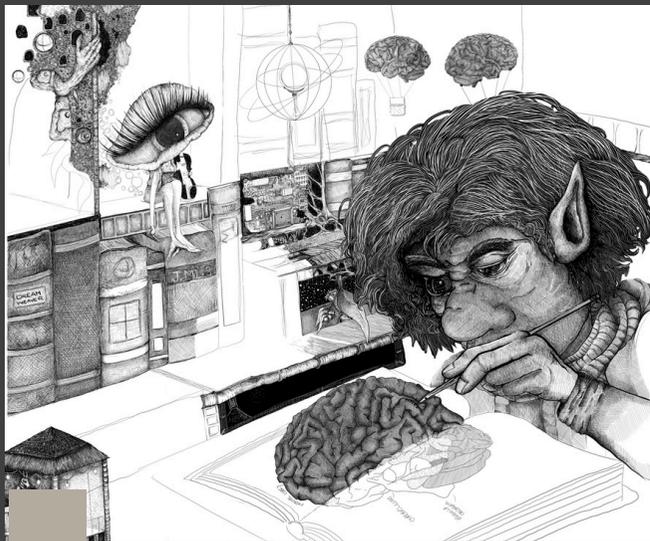




Digital Sketches on Procreate

I love the loose and messy, yet it-works version of cross-hatching and shading. Lines have a mind of their own and guide the hand more than the other way round.

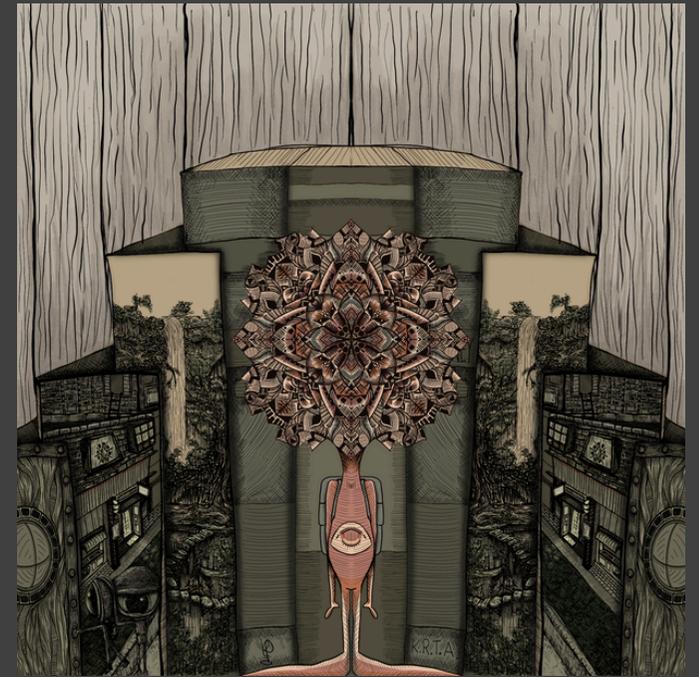
Fun fact: I studied nursing back in the day and my favourite subject was biology (can you tell?). I think I sketched more pictures of eyes and brains than I actually studied... and I kept my biology books for drawing references.

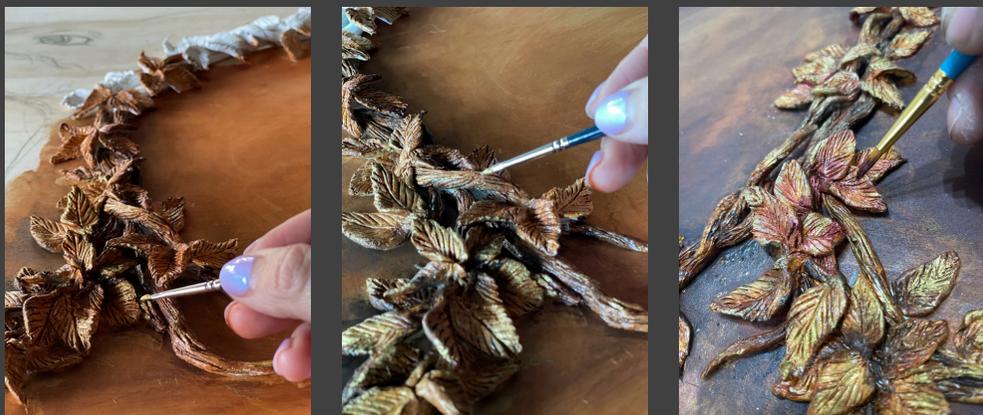




Themes

Besides eyes and creatures I also use books and trees a lot in my artwork and often intertwine them together, organic and mystical. I just imagine worlds within worlds, and trees are the gateways to the stories. Literally, books are a gift from the trees. I've started writing a story on this theme which I'll continue working on..





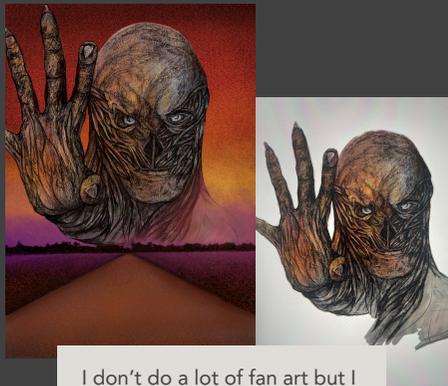
From sketches to 3D

I decided to take this drawing I did, which is one of my favourites, and turn it into a 3D painting complete with clay leaves and fairy lights. The drawing is named 'Ode To Enid' after my favourite childhood author Enid Blyton and her books *The Magic Faraway Tree* and the *Brer Rabbit* series. Making this come to life was like creating a portal into the stories.

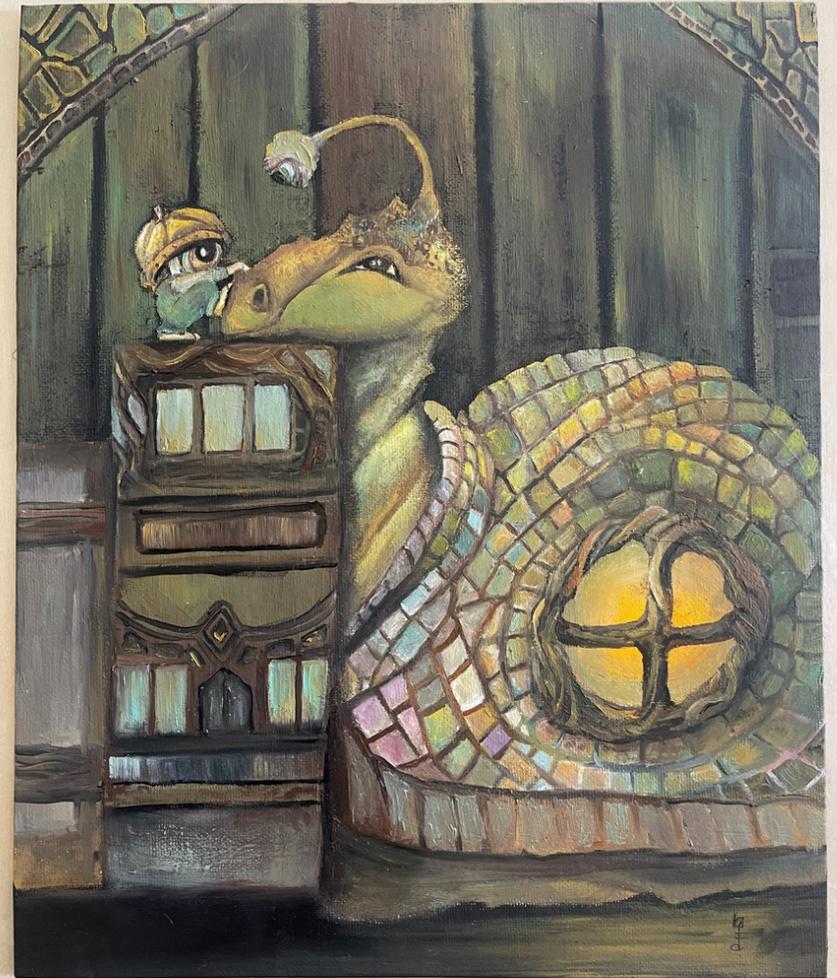


Mixing Media

Adding my drawings to pictures I took of pretty places and things..



I don't do a lot of fan art but I loved doing this. Vecna/Henry/One is a fun character to draw



Painting

I painted for years with acrylic thinking I didn't have the patience for oils. I was very wrong. I started oils in July this year and haven't looked back.





Festival Work

Woodford Folk Festival under the direction of Artist in Residence Gavin Ryan.

Annual WFF poster murals, and a number of large-scale projects like "Roger" (Bill wouldn't let us keep the name. He changed it to Orion. We prefer Roger..) the unicorn seahorse on wheels and fireworks shooting from his head like a majestic Snork. We made this entirely of cardboard and a golf buggy. And some other bits n bobs.

I worked on projects under Gavin's direction for a couple of years before Covid hit. I also did some small individual illustration jobs for the Festival.



Beautiful hand-drawn postcards printed on...



Thank you for taking the time to look through this short story of mine. Please reach out if there's any creatives spaces I can slot into or art jobs I can do! I will likely continue to follow up with some nudges. But also, feedback is welcome too. Hope we can work together someday!

with gratitude

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