Portfolio

Illustrator & Graphic Designer • Yonah Ma

About Me

Hi there! I am Yonah, I was born and raised in Hong Kong and has graduated from University from Melbourne in December 2022. I have then moved to the UK to pursue an art career that could put my illustration skills to use.

Though I have yet to undergo official job experiences and has mainly majored in Fine Arts in my previous years, I have picked up design skills to enrich myself in other pursuits of creating art. I am willing to learn on the job and am willing to improve myself for the better of the company. Thank you for taking time in considering my application.

Where to find Me

https://curseye.com/

yonahcurseye@gmail.com

@curseye

Creative Skills

Attention to Detail
Illustrations
Mind Mapping
Time Management

Software Skills

Adobe Photoshop
Fluent

Procreate
Fluent

Adobe Premiere Pro
Intermediate

Blender
Intermediate

Languages

English
Fluent

Cantonese
Native

Mandarin
Intermediate

Education

2020 - 2022 RMIT University, Melbourne
Bachelor of Fine Arts (Painting)

2017 - 2019 Pakuranga College, Auckland
NCEA Year 11 - Year 13

Experience

2023 **Wimbledone Art Studios - Art Fair Ambassador (Volunteer)**
16th Nov & 18th Nov
A 2-day volunteer position that I attented, to help visitors navigate their way around the studios and answer any of their queries regarding the event.

Parallax, Kensington Town Hall - Exhibitionist
7th July - 9th July
Exhibition Name: 'Parallax Art Fair'
A 3-day art fair I signed up for to exhibit and sell my artworks. I had to self-promote on my social media of the event I am attending, curate the space I rented to display my own artworks, and hang my artworks up according to wall space I was provided. While during the fair, I would engage with viewers if they have questions about my work and further elaborate on my creations through conversation.

The Holy Art, Bargehouse, Oxo Tower - Exhibitionist
30th March - 2nd April
Exhibition Name: 'The Holy Art Fair'
A 4-day art fair I signed up for to exhibit and sell my artworks. I had to self-promote on my social media of the event I am attending, curate the space I rented to display my own artworks, and hang my artworks up according to wall space I was provided. While during the fair, I would engage with viewers if they have questions about my work and further elaborate on my creations through conversation.

2022 **RMIT, Melbourne - Exhibition Curator**
October - November
Exhibition Name: 'School of Art Graduate Exhibition: Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts)'
In the curation period, students and I will be scouting spaces in our studio to make sure we have a desired wall or corner to display our works, we would then discuss with the technicians regarding the health and safety of our hanging methods if the artworks were to be displayed in unconventional ways.
While during the installation dates, students and I would need to fill the holes and gaps on walls we have produced during the school period where nails were used to display our works. We then had to re-paint the studios as students may have splashed paint or have created murals on the walls.

RMIT, Melbourne - Exhibition Curator
July - October
Exhibition Name: 'Big Anxiety Festival' - 'Archive of Feeling'
The exhibition is to be displayed on a huge wall with all students' work displayed along side each other like an archive of works. As not onl drawings and paintings are to be hung, sculptures, video and fabric are also part of students' works. Therefore during our curators' meeting with our lecturers and technicians, we would discuss the involvement of shelving units or hooks and wires in displaying our works. We also are to rearrange the works in a layout that is readable to audience members, so we would start by having the video works displayed first as wires and sockets aren't really flexible mediums, and work our way around them.

Paintings

I love surrealism and am fascinated with biological elements, I also think less when I paint, so my subconscious will tend to bleed onto the canvas at times when I paint.

Oil Paint on Canvas

Acrylcis on Canvas

Oil Paint on Canvas

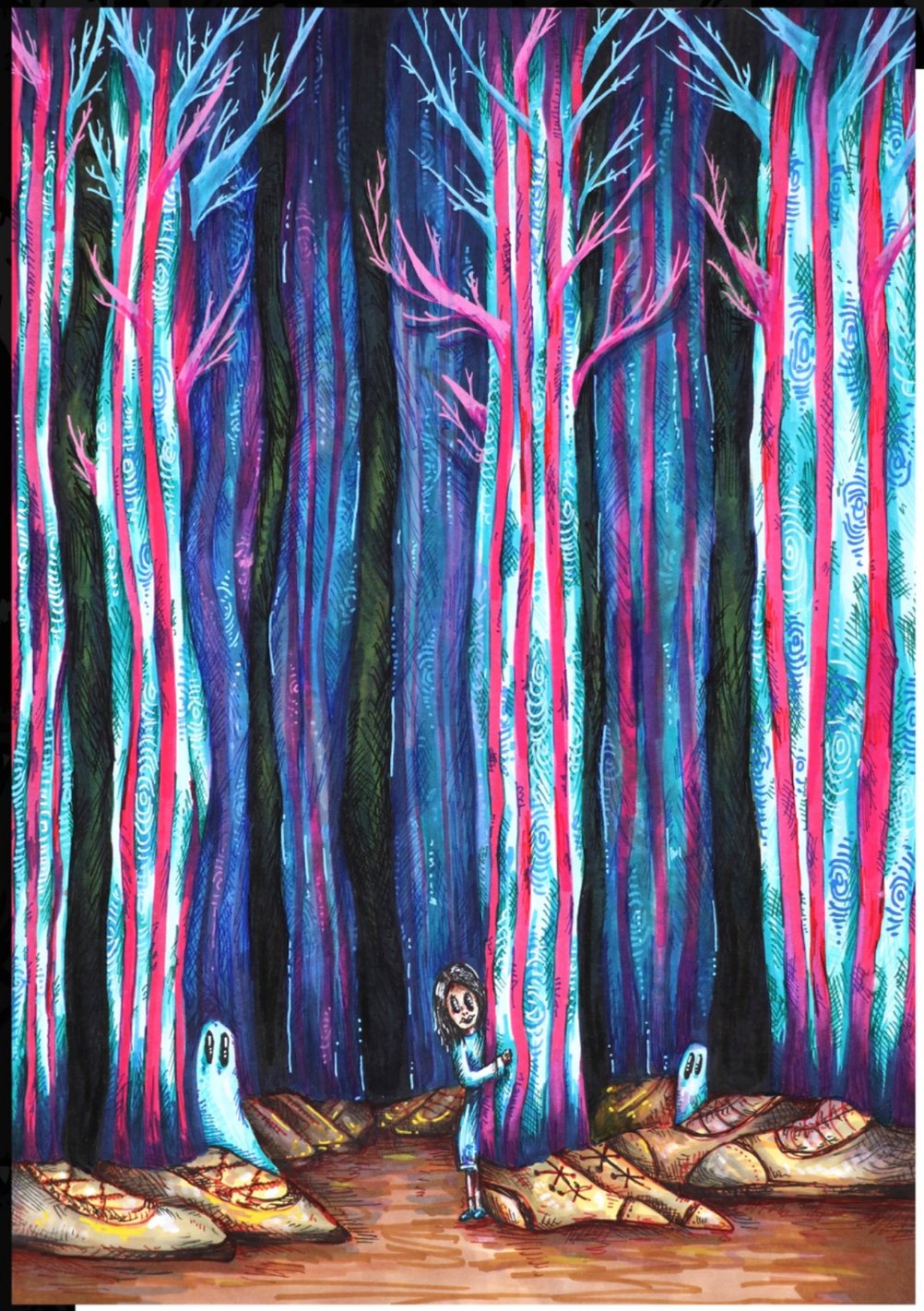
Oil Paint on Canvas

Illustrations

I am a maximalist, I love adding as much as possible to my illustrations and am very pattern-driven when creating drawings. I also like putting in a bit of my mental health issues into them, because illustrations are the best form of art in creating a clear visual narrative for viewers to look into.

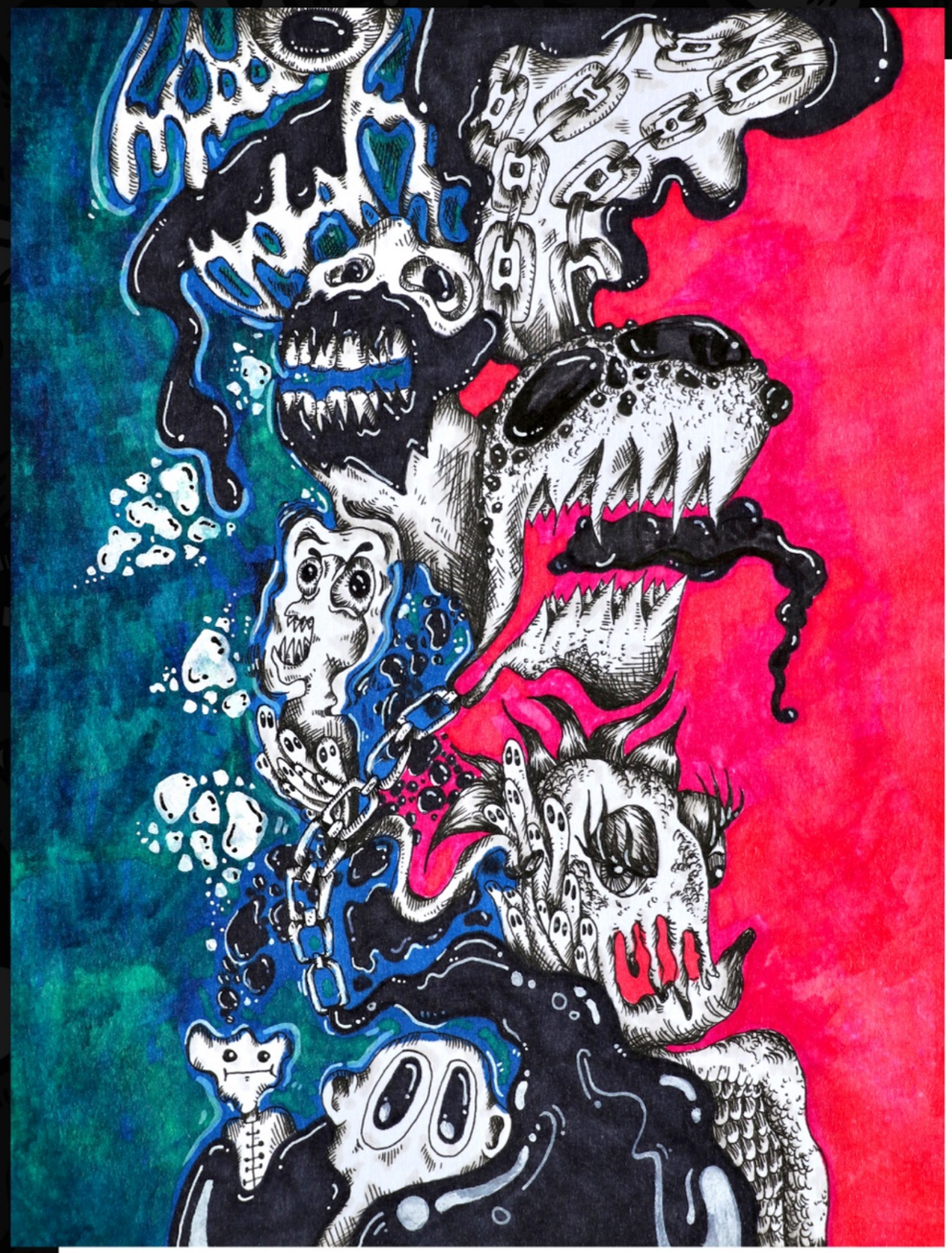
Since I have also been honing into fine arts a majority of my life, I would prefer to use pens and markers on paper as I find myself drawing better on physical material rather than digital. However, I would still create digital illustration every now and then as I understand the world is more engaged with digital works.

Work done with pens and markers on paper



Works done with pens and markers on paper

Work done with acrylics and markers on cardboard



Work done with pens and markers on paper

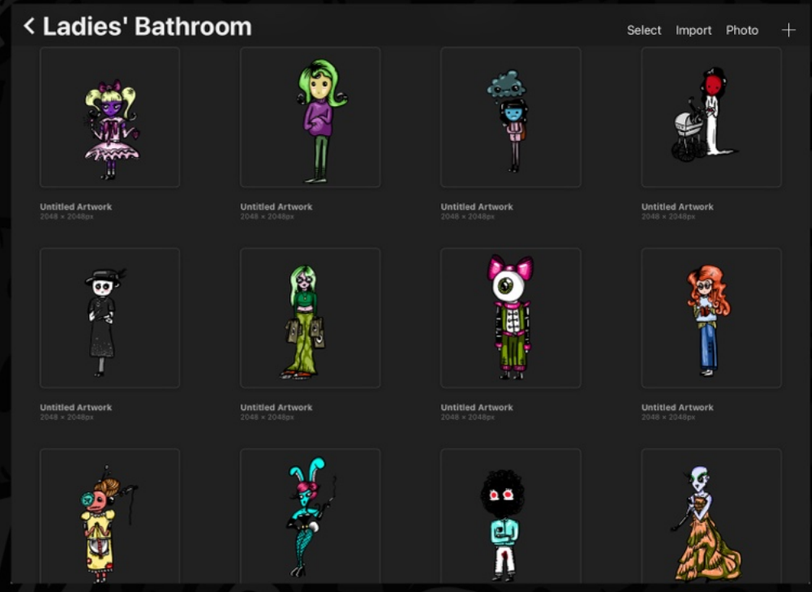
Ladies' Bathroom Line

This is a mini project I did this year, in portraying the everlasting line in front of the ladies' bathrom in public spaces. I started listing out all characters that I could possibly find in front of the bathroom, and drew the characters individaully on Procreate and organised in Photoshop.

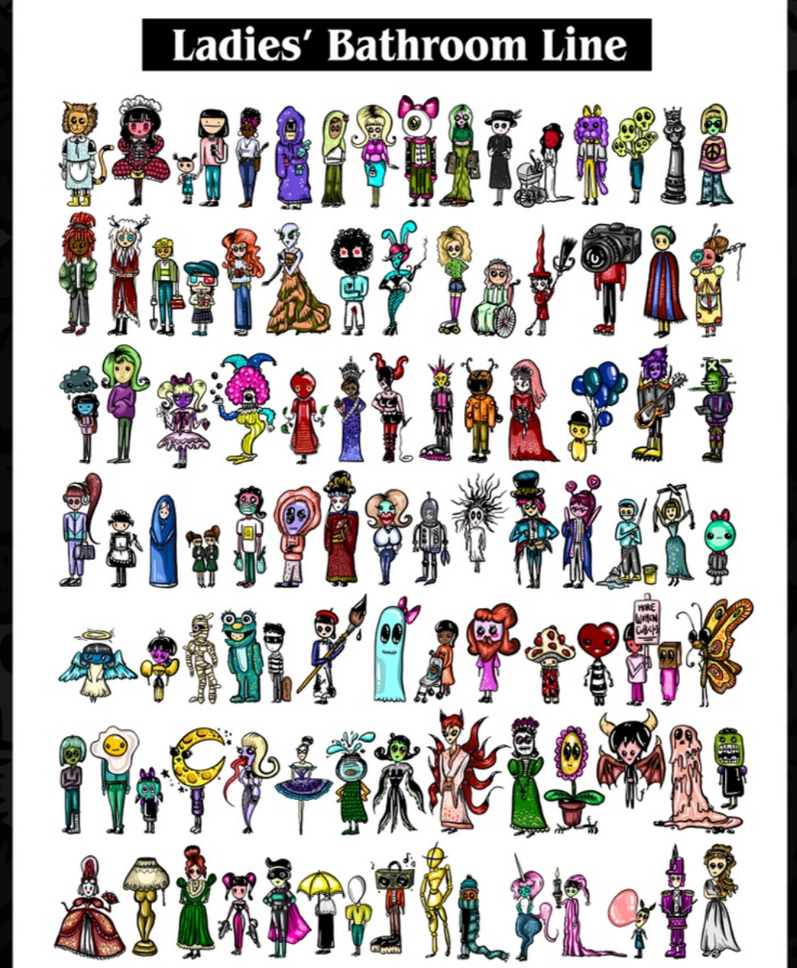
List:

- Cat
- Mother
- Sleepy
- Eye
- Shopaholic
- Multi-head
- Chess piece
- Ballon
- Sewer
- Clown
- Bride
- Motor cyclist
- Bearded
- Pram
- Muppet
- Nun
- Maid
- Period
- Witch
- Musician
- Butterfly
- Gum
- Child
- Student
- Hero

I had a very broad list of characters I can think of, I would expand it in time if I think of something better. I also like listing things out when making work series, which helps with my work progress.



I drew them on seperate files so I know all the characters would stand out on their own in a good resolution, and to make sure I create a new colour palette for each of them in building a better sense of colour combinations.



I did do layout experimenting as seen above. For the one on the left, the black line behind the font is dragged too long, the lenght of line together with the queue lenght of the characters is way too similar, which creates no composition contrast for the image. The on on the right will look nice as a cluster of characters together, however, without the text indication it can be open for interpretation to viewers. So ultimately I did choose the middle one as my final piece to be presented.

Greeting Cards

Few years back as I need to graduate high school from Auckland, I made farewell cards to my friends and teacher tailored to their hobbies, interests or personalities. All works are done with copic markers and pens on paper.

To my friend who had anxiety issues, with her love of cherry blossoms as her favourite subject matter to draw.

To my teacher who loves whales.

To my cat-loving friend

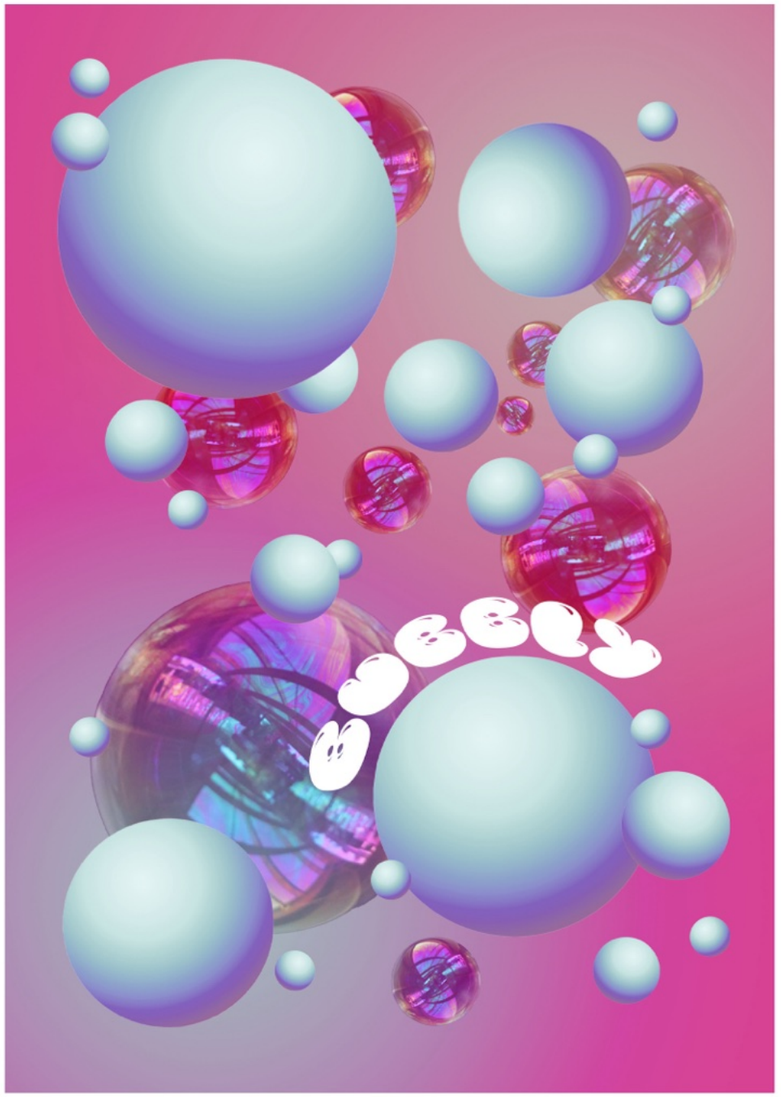
To my best friend who shares the love of K-pop with me, hence the Korean heart symbol gesture, only I used a middle finger instead of the usual index finger because we have a love-hate kind of relationship.

To my teacher who loves French bulldogs

To my friend who loves turtles and the anime called 'Banana Fish', it has nothing to do with banana or fish, I just drew the literal meaning here.

Graphic Design

I understand I am more of an illustrator than a designer, which is why I chose to practice graphic design at times. I would pick a word or a phrase and create a poster on Photoshop for it.

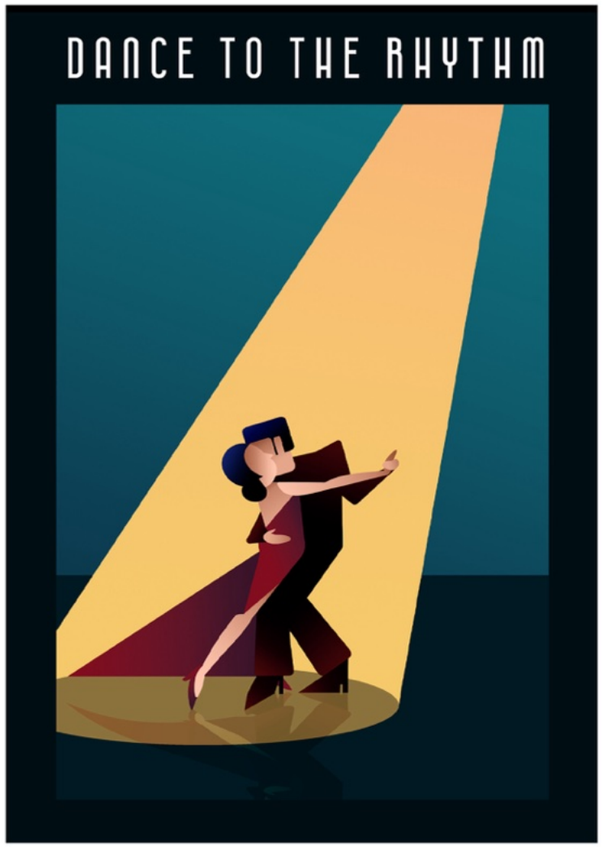


Motif: Pastel
Word(s) Chosen: Bubbly

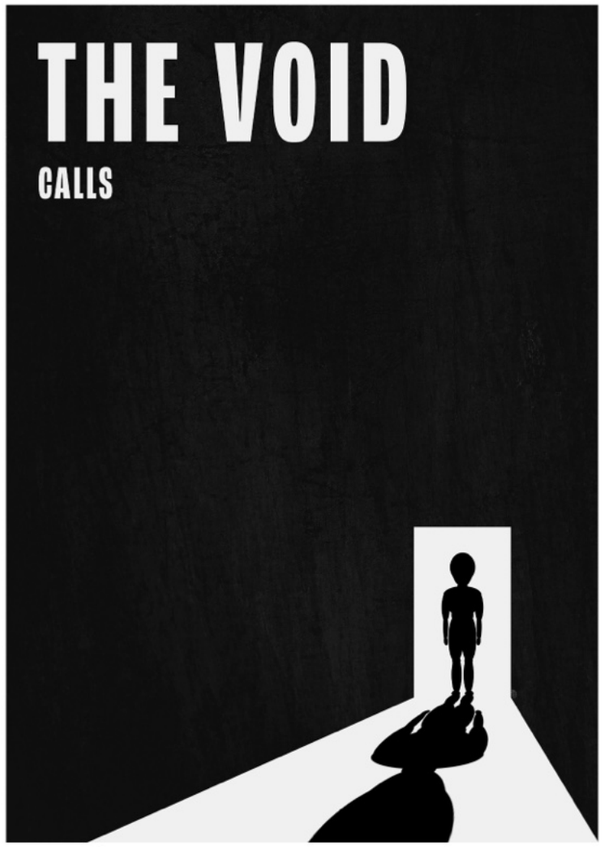
Motif: Pastel
Word(s) Chosen: Dream

Motif: Pastel
Word(s) Chosen: Dawn

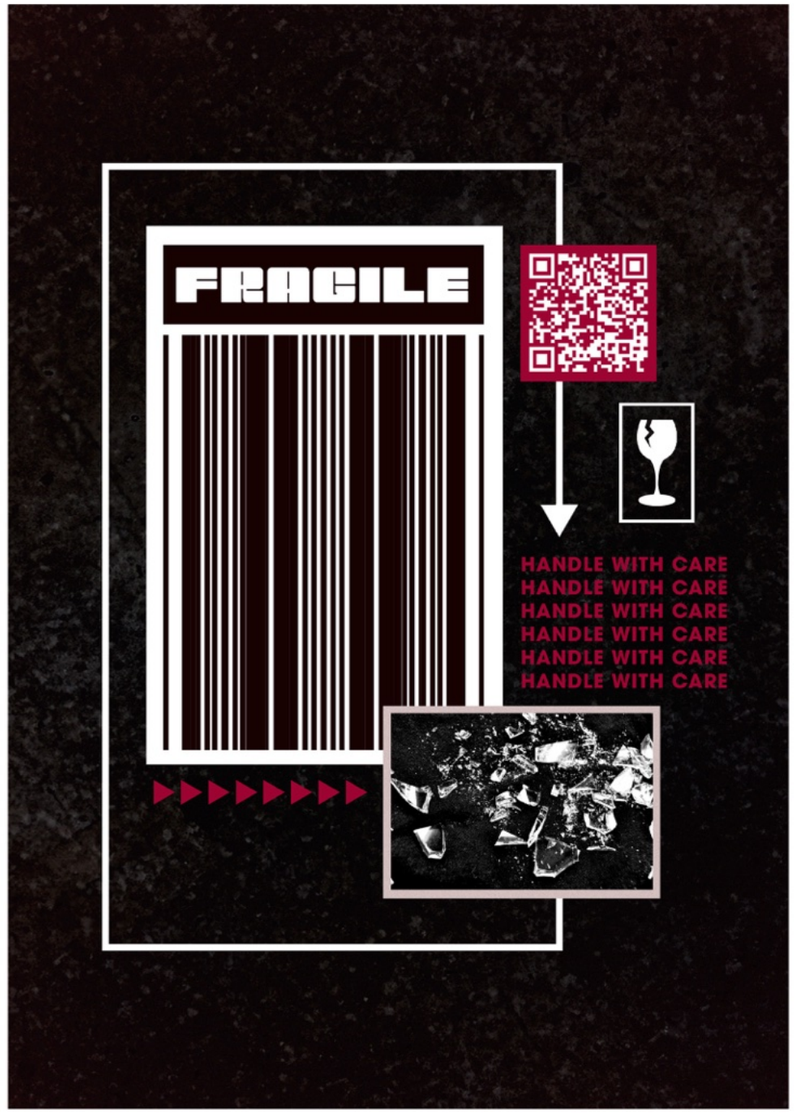
Motif: Art Deco, Vector Images



Motif: Simplicity, Minimalism



Motif: Punk, Cyberpunk



Packaging Design

Apart from practicing on graphic design, I practiced on package design, so I know a bit more about branding identity and branding consistency. But for the project below, I also mocked up a website on photoshop to learn how website user interfaces should be laid out.

Here I tried to create 3 completely different designs with the same motif for a soda brand I made up. Building myself the sense if I were to create a certain set of graphics, what font and layout would match with the graphics best, and how should I lay everything out aesthetically while making sure consumers can read product descriptions clearly.

Thank You

Hope to talk to you soon!