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The World of Fantasy Quest

Veronica Cristellon

Abstract

"Fantasy Quest" is a series of 4 watercolor paintings that depict Mia's adventure through magical villages with dreamlike creatures. The paintings combine children's imagination with real-world environments, inviting viewers to actively set off on a creative exploration of fantastic stories beyond the ordinary. The project objective is to make children and adults dream. For adults, the goal is to rediscover their inner child and continue to imagine through the paintings. For children, the goal is to bring joy and help them create happy memories, especially for those who didn't have a happy childhood. Mia's adventures offer a world of magic, enchantment, and imagination for them to enjoy. The watercolor series visually narrates Mia's explorations, using a specific color scheme to enhance clarity and reduce the language barrier. Mia is portrayed with vibrant colors and a red scarf, while her surroundings are painted in muted tones. This makes her stand out in the environments she explores. The series "Fantasy Quest" seeks to emotionally involve the audience, adults or children, creating a connection with reality and the inner child, forming happy memories.

From my earliest memories, art has always been my passion, especially drawing cartoon characters and imagining their stories. Initially, I mimicked my favorite characters, and later, I created my original characters with their own stories while attending university. Learning different techniques gave me the confidence to create my own art, illustrations, and stories. This is how "Fantasy Quest" was born.

The series "Fantasy Quest" is a series of four watercolor paintings, originally made for my Watercolor 2 class. The prompt was to create a series on a subject of our choice using different watercolor painting techniques. The four paintings involved techniques such as wet on dry paper (using a wet brush with watercolor paint, on dry

paper), wet on wet paper (using a wet brush with watercolor paint, on paper that was wet with water or watercolor paint), gradient (creating a uniform and progressive change of colors or intensity of the color with watercolor paint on paper), and flat wash (uniformly applying watercolor paint on paper). The inspiration for the story and illustrations is from the world around me, from nature to people, through shapes I see in clouds or patterns. This inspiration sets off my imagination and allows me to create a fictional story around the shape or the pattern I saw. After creating the story, I translated it into the perfect color combination for the paintings. Then, the concept of a new fictional character and setting comes into the picture. In the development of both the story

and paintings, I think about themes the series may explore, such as childhood wonder, exploration, and imagination.

The series was made in one month and depicts Mia's story, a curious little girl with pink and blue hair who loves to explore. She always wears her cute pink sweater and her favorite blue jeans. She can't explore without her red scarf, a must-have in an adventurer's belongings. Mia has one goal: to find the hidden villages of the Four Realms. Two realms are over land, the Forest Realm and the Mushrooms Realm, and two realms are underwater, the Coral Reef Realm and the Deep Blue Realm. These realms are fictional and were inspired by existing natural environments. Mia takes a journey through these realms, in many magical places, to find the villages inhabited by dreamlike creatures.



Mia starts in the first painting in a mysterious forest in the Forest Realm, where she climbs trees and plants. Behind a big fallen tree, she finds the first village. The creatures are very strange: fluffy, tiny, and with small leaves on their head. Nearby are their little houses, with blue doors and green roofs. She says hi to them, but she needs to continue her quest, moving to the next painting.



Mia is now in the Mushrooms Realm. The bizarre environment around her has huge brown mushrooms with tiny houses all over them; there, she meets the pink inhabitants of the houses. They have butterflies on top of their head! She also finds with much surprise that one of these butterflies has landed on the tip of her little nose. Now it's time to say goodbye and move to the next realm, the Coral Reef Realm.



In the next painting, Mia is underwater, singing and whistling happily in the Coral Reef Realm. Between rocks and aquatic plants, she finds starfish and shells.

She looks closely and sees that the shells are on top of tiny houses. Here, she meets fish; some of them are big, some small, but they all have beautiful blue wings that make them very quick in the water. She follows their movement carefully and with extreme wonder. She now leaves the reef to venture into the last realm, the most hidden one.



In the Deep Blue Realm, Mia wanders for a long time without finding magical creatures or enchanted places. But suddenly, she sees it in the last painting. A colossal whale appears. On her back, there are little purple houses. Observing the houses carefully, she finds the inhabitants: tiny purple birds with small white horns and wings. Both the birds and the whale stare at Mia with surprise but also a bit of fear. She quickly reassures them that she is there with no harm in mind. They are so happy to hear this news that the birds surround her, even landing on her head. Mia is very proud. Since she was little, her dream was to explore the wonders of her world. Finally, she has traveled through the Four Realms and found the magical creatures of her dreams. She can now choose her new adventure.

The series "Fantasy Quest" seeks to emotionally involve the audience, adults or

children, creating a connection with both reality and the inner child, forming happy memories. Mia's story and the paintings combine children's imagination with real-world environments, inviting viewers to actively set off on a creative exploration of fantastic stories beyond the ordinary. The project objective is to make children and adults dream. For adults, the goal is to rediscover their inner child and continue to imagine through the paintings. For children, the goal is to bring joy and help them create happy memories, especially for those who didn't have a happy childhood. Mia's adventures offer a world of magic, enchantment, and imagination for them to enjoy. The watercolor series visually narrates Mia's adventure, and it depicts Mia using a specific color scheme. Mia is portrayed with vibrant colors and her red scarf, while her surroundings are painted in muted tones. This makes her stand out in the environments she explores, and the viewer can easily recognize her through the paintings. Without the use of words, the visual narration enhances the clarity of the story and reduces the language barrier.