

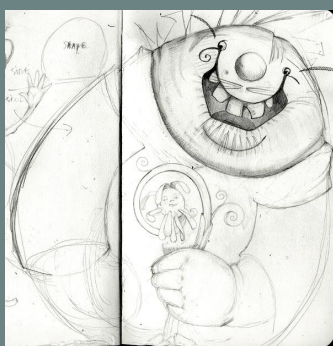
Illustrator News - April 2023

Illustrator-Author Process

SCBWI Oregon Illustrators are a wonderfully diverse group of artists whose style, experience, media, and subject matter vary widely. And I just discovered that over three-quarters of our Illustrators are self-described Writer-Illustrators. That's why Oregon illustrator events, and regional events posted below, will often incorporate a dual-focus moving forward. So, whether you wear "two hats" or not, you'll find benefit in many of the events offered.

Process: If you are a writer-illustrator working on your own projects, do your drawings inspire the story-making process, or, do the words come first? Is it a back and forth dialogue, or something else? However you create, I'm guessing it's an ever-evolving process, and drawing (a lot) is key. But don't forget those doodles and gesture sketches tucked away in an old notebook; they're just waiting for you to begin a dialogue with - and maybe develop a story.

I've been scanning notebook sketches over the last few years thinking they might become story characters one day. Every so often I import a couple into Procreate and do quick color-ups. Below left is the raw sketch of Poto, named after his favorite food to grow: potatoes. For the color-up I did a flat tracing with no layers. Then I popped in some color and added shading via additional layers. Not too much, just to get a sense of who this character could become.

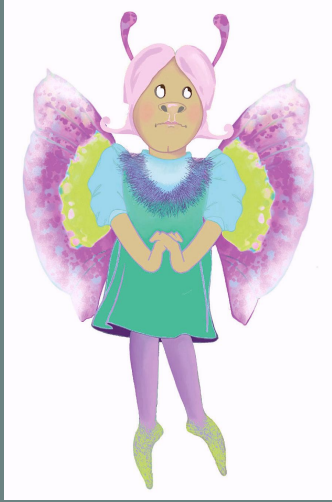


Working with another raw sketch, I wanted to explore variations. My goal was to see who might show up. First I traced the sketch in separate shape layers: head, body, arms, etc., so it would be easy to change colors, duplicate sections, etc..

Next I played with the shapes - changing sizes, adding details, experimenting with pattern and color and defining physical and facial expressions.

As you see below, the raw sketch yielded two very different beings; now I have a bit more information to begin a dialogue with them about the stories and worlds they come from.





The process above is a bit different from the way I focus on commissions, but it does influence how I think about character design, especially when I get stuck mid-process. Since countless variations are possible, I know that if I keep exploring, the right character will show up.

However you work, please consider sharing your process with all of us. I'll be inviting several SCBWI Oregon Illustrators to share their work and techniques during Craft Events this year (*honorarium included*) and I'm opening up the invitation to you. If you have a craft-share topic in mind, please get in touch with me at Oregon-ic@scbwi.org.

Oregon Logo Design Submission Date *Extended...*

Preparing for the launch of the updated SCBWI organizational website, Oregon SCBWI is commissioning the creation of several internal logos - and we want YOU to create them. Send in those submissions through [JUNE 1st](#) to have your artwork featured on the *new* SCBWI Website!

There's also the Alaska region contest, open till *May 1st*.
Click below for details.



Oregon SCBWI



Alaska SCBWI



Oregon SCBWI

April 2023 Featured Oregon Illustrators



Forrest Burdett



Michelle Thies

[Oregon SCBWI Featured Illustrators](#)

Visit the [Feature Page](#) to learn about Forrest and



Michelle, view samples of their artwork, and find links to their websites.

Illustration: Chamisa Kellogg

Would you like to be featured?

To be considered, we prefer you have an SCBWI Illustrator profile: available to editors, agents, and other folks through the [Illustrator Gallery](#). If you haven't set up a profile, [HERE'S HOW!](#) To find out more or apply, contact Robin: Oregon-ic@SCBWI.org

SCBWI Opportunities - April-May-June 2023

APRIL #scbwiDrawThis - BUBBLE

Click below to visit the [AWARDS](#) and [GRANTS](#) page.

April	May	June
<p>A. Orr Fantasy Award Opens April 1 Closes April 30 Announced June 15</p> <p>Ann Whitford Paul Award Opens April 1 Closes April 30 Announced June 15</p> <p>Book Launch Award Opens February 1 Closes February 28 Announced April 15</p>	<p>Amber Brown Award Opens April 1 Closes April 30 Announced July 15</p> <p>Graphic Novel Award Opens May 1 Closes May 31 Announced August 15</p> <p>Novel-in-Verse Award Opens May 1 Closes May 31 Announced August 15</p> <p>Crystal Kite Awards Submissions open February 1 Submissions close March 21 Announced May 15</p>	<p>A. Orr Fantasy Award Opens April 1 Closes April 30 Announced June 15</p> <p>Ann Whitford Paul Award Opens April 1 Closes April 30 Announced June 15</p> <p>Emerging Voices Award Opens June 1 Closes June 30 Announced September 15</p>

[Awards & Grants](#)



Curated SCBWI Virtual Event Listings

- National Illustrator Virtual Events are posted and updated bi-weekly on [Oregon's Illustrators Page](#). Spring highlights below.

Publishing Path: How to get your work

noticed. **JANET MORISHIMA**

New Leaf Literary

Agent & Marketing Expert

April 20, 2023

[Publishing Path](#)

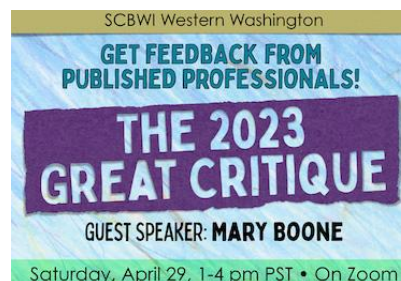


Western Washington

Great Critique 2023

April 29, 2023

[Great Critique](#)



Illinois SCBWI Spring Thaw
Perfect Your Pitch!
A Hybrid Event
May 5-6, 2023

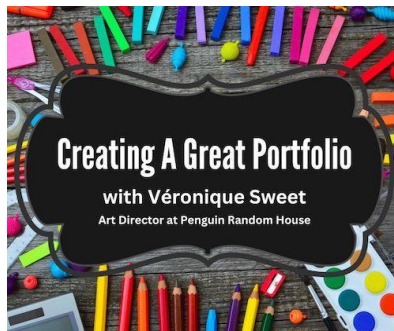
Perfect Your Pitch



Creating a Great Portfolio
ZOOM

May 6, 2023

Great Portfolio



Portfolio Critique Audit
ZOOM

May 6, 2023

Critique Audit



Get Across the Finish Line
Picture Book Revision
May 16, 2023 - Zoom

PB Revision



Work For Hire
A Work For Hire Panel

May 17, 2023 - Zoom

Work For Hire



May Fest
San Diego One-Day Conference

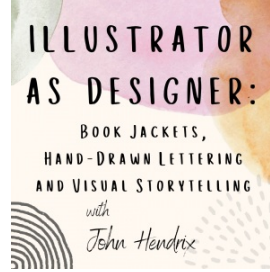
May 20, 2023 - Zoom

May Fest



Illustrator as Designer:
JOHN HENDRIX, Book Jackets, Visual
Storytelling and Hand-Drawn Lettering

May 22, 2023



KidLit Illustrators Talk Podcast

New podcasts posted bi-monthly. Listen [HERE](#).

More coming soon - editing takes time, I find.

(Produced by Dreaming Earth Press - not a production of SCBWI)

Enjoy the Spring, Everyone!

Robin Chilstrom
oregon-ic@SCBWI.org



Here are **Quick Links** to essential SCBWI Resources, just for you!



[Our Company](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

SCBWI Oregon | 6363 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 425, Los Angeles, CA 90048

[Unsubscribe \[oregon-ra@scbwi.org\]\(mailto:oregon-ra@scbwi.org\)](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by oregon-ic@scbwi.org in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!