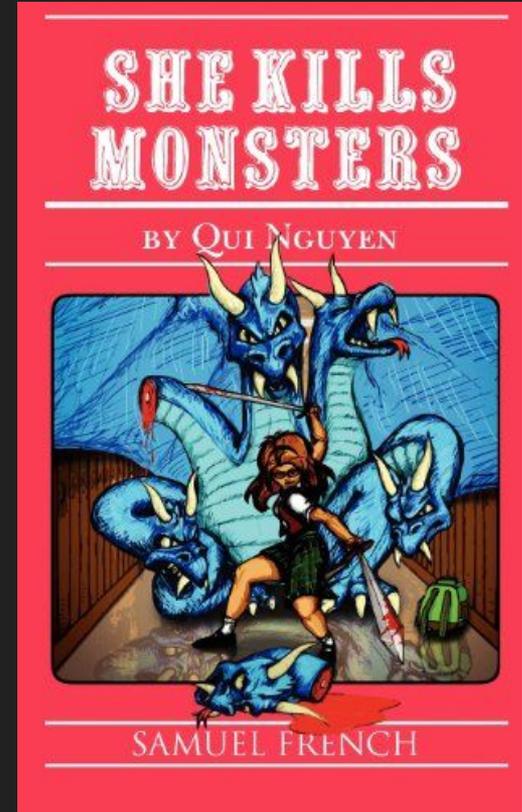


SHE KILLS MONSTERS PROP DESIGN

ALEX WEBB - SHP

SHE KILLS MONSTERS

- Play written in 2012 by Qui Nguyen about Agnes, an average young teacher in the 1990s getting to know her nerdy younger sister, Tilly, better through a Dungeons and Dragons campaign that Tilly wrote before her death.
- Main appeals of show are the 90's cultural references and the Dungeons and Dragons, which allows for fantastical props, costumes, and scenery.
- The script was not written with staging practicality in mind, so there is a challenge in solving those problems through design.



PROP LIST, PAGE 1

Highlighted cells indicate props chosen to design.

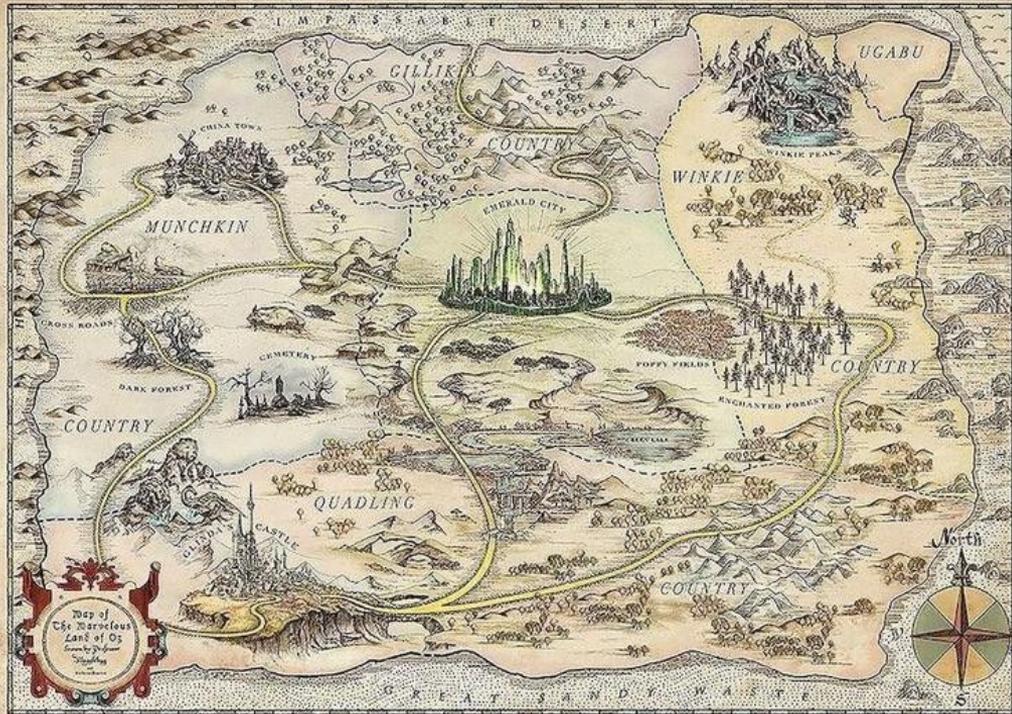
#	Prop	pg.	#	Source	Description	Handler
Prologue						
1	Tilly's Sword	7	1		Used to slay creatures."Eastern Blade of the Dreamwalker". "Coolass"	Tilly
Scene 2						
4	Store Counter	9			Probably includes cash register, various TTRPG display items, etc.	
5	Tilly's Notebook	10			Has notes for homebrew D&D campaign/ Homespun Module	
Scene 3						
6	Tilly's Room Set Dressing	12			Furniture (Bed, nightstand, dresser, etc).	
7	He-Man Action Figure	12				Miles
8	Table	13			Chuck hides behind it before emerging. Described as Kitchen table? But also happening in Tily's room still?? Has D&D stuff on it like character sheets, Dice (later used in scene 15). Needs to be flipped in scene 15.	
9	Lilith's Battle Axe	14				
10	Kalioppe's Weapon	14			She seems like bow & arrow or daggers type.	
11	Misc. costume props	14			Probably like pouches or various smaller weapons. Also shields probably?	
13	Agnes' Sword	17			regular, starter weapon	
14	Agnes's Shield	17			regular, starter shield	
Scene 4						
15	Orcus' Lair Set Dressing	18			Lazy-boy, TV/VCR combo, probably magazines/snacks/etc.	
16	Steve Costume Props	18			He have to have his arms ripped off, so he doesn't hold staff/wand/etc.	
Scene 5						
17	Vera's Office Set Dressing	20			Vera's Desk, at least 2 chairs, misc. desk supplies. She's guidance councilor	
Scene 6						
19	Orcus' Map	25			"comically large map suddenly appears out of nowhere"	Orcus

PROP LIST, PAGE 2

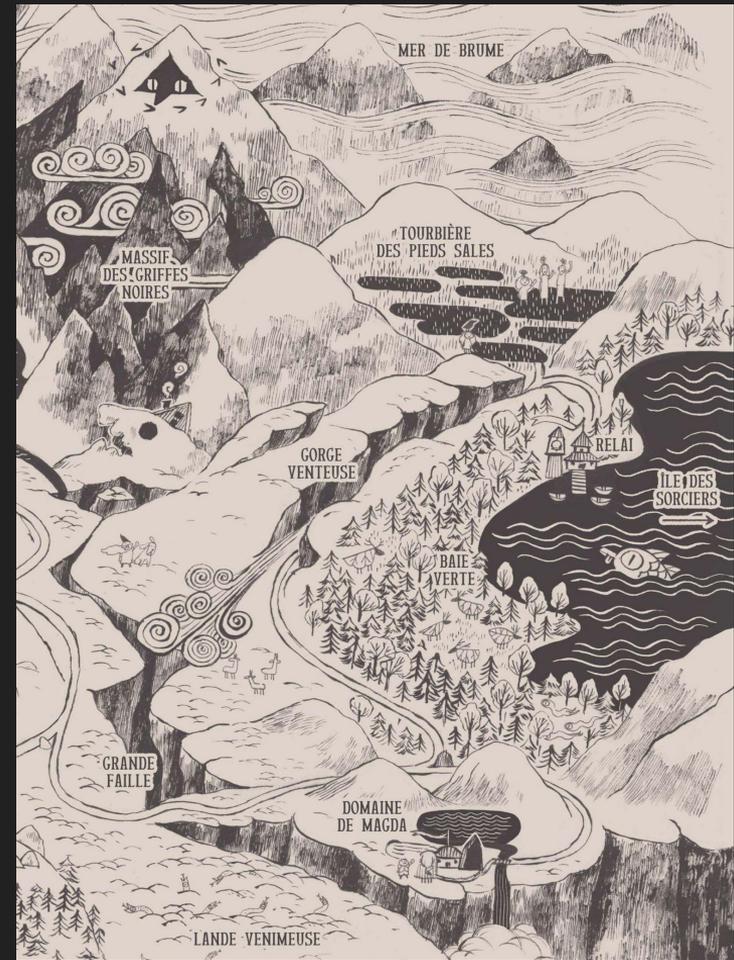
Highlighted cells indicate props chosen to design.

#	Prop	pg.	#	Source	Description	Handler
Scene 7						
21	Rip-out throat affect?	29			"graphically rips out his throat in one quick move"	On Steve, by Farrah
22	Farrah's Knives (x2)	29			"two very large knives", she's a fairy who initially appears cute/pretty.	Farrah
Scene 10						
23	Papers for Sorting	38			given to her by Vera	Lilith (Lily)
24	Vera's Keys	40			Ring of keys	Vera to Lily
Scene 11						
25	Tilly's Envelope	42			From inside Dm notebook.	Chuck
Scene 13						
26	Gelatinous Cube	47			Looks like jello cube. Sucks down steve, then spits out skeleton & armor. Transforms into a Miles doppelganger.	
Scene 14						
27	Agnes' Classroom	51			Desk, chair. Desk supplies	
28	Yearbook	52			"the pages fly everywhere" after Agnes" violently throws it against the wall	Tina to Agnes
Scene 15						
29	Miles' Heart	57			Evil Tina rips out his heart and licks it . Affect for that?	Miles to Evil Tina
30	Steve's Arms	58			"the succubus rip off his arms" (which succubus? Both?)	Steve to Succubi
Scene 16						
31	Ronnie's house	63			Door, TV/VCR	
32	Kelly's Wheelchair	65				
Scene 17						
33	Vera the Beholder	68			Gets stabbed in the eye.	Vera
34	Throwing Knife	68			Agnes throws it and kills steve immediately	Agnes to Steve
35	Tiamat	70			5-headed dragon. Puppet? Agnes stabs him through the heart.	Lilith, orcus, kalliope, tilly

DESIGN RESEARCH - MAP

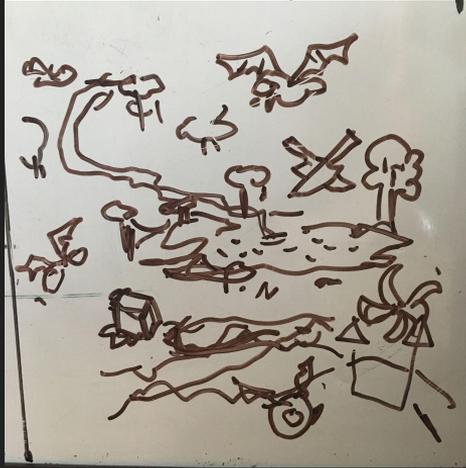


Style inspiration - The Land of Oz ([Source](#))



Style inspiration - Bergères guerrières ([Source](#))

FINAL MAP



Map Sketch

- Map to be projected on a wall, so only drawing is necessary
- Symbols for obstacles in the path (knives in the shape of fairy wings, slime cube, beholder eye, Tiamat symbol)
- Map isn't complete, because Tilly died before completing everything.



DESIGN RESEARCH – MONSTERS

Beholder: Floating orb enemy with one huge eye and mouth, depicted with 4-10 additional eyestalks.



Official art of Beholders from D&D 2nd Edition, which is the most recent version during the play's time period.

Source: [Forgotten Realms Wiki](https://www.dndwiki.com/index.php?title=Beholder)

Tiamat: Lawful Evil Dragon Goddess of greed. In the 5-headed dragon form, each head is from one of the 5 most common types of chromatic dragons (Black/Skull, Blue/Storm, Green, Red, White/Ice), while the rest of her body is brown.



Above: Tiamat's Unholy Symbol

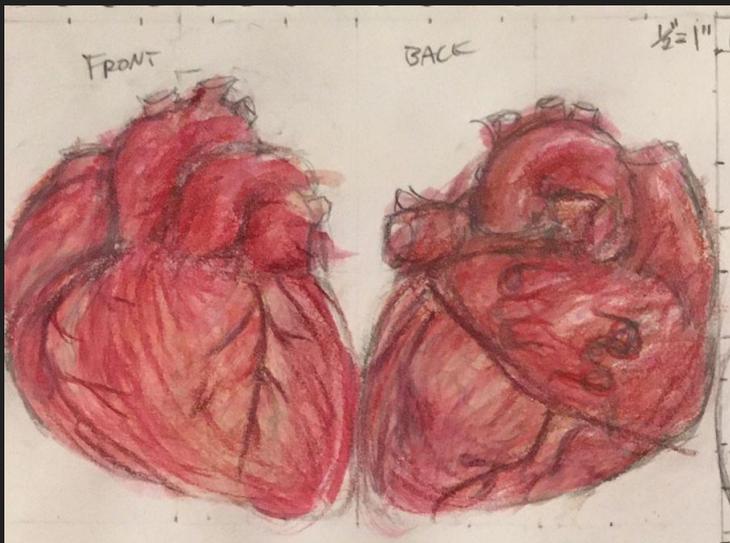
Right: Official art of Tiamat in 5-headed dragon form.

Source: [Forgotten Realms Wiki](https://www.dndwiki.com/index.php?title=Tiamat)

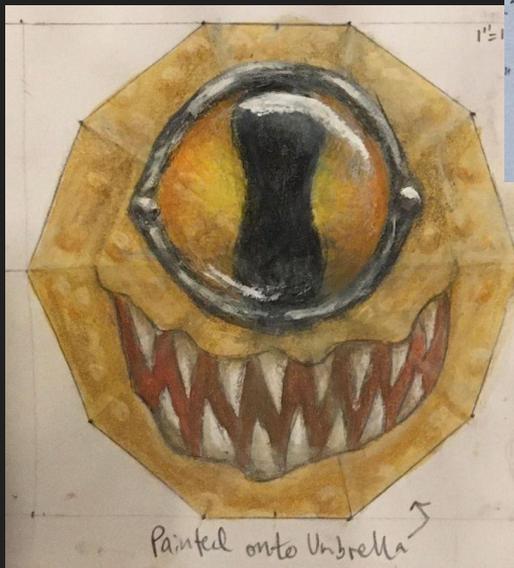
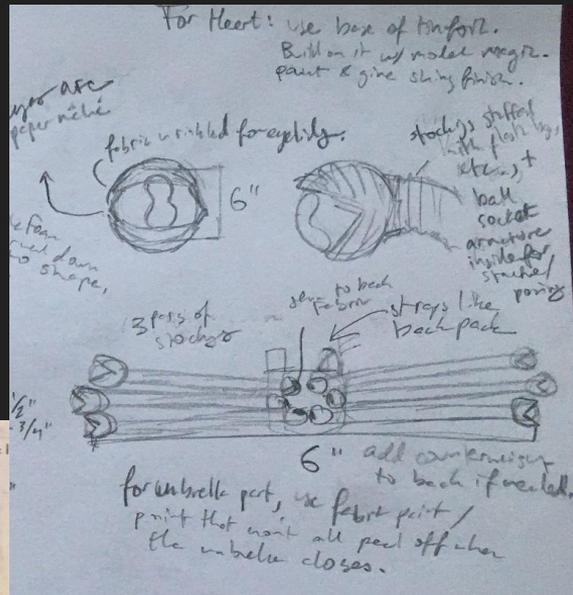


VERA THE BEHOLDER/MILES' HEART

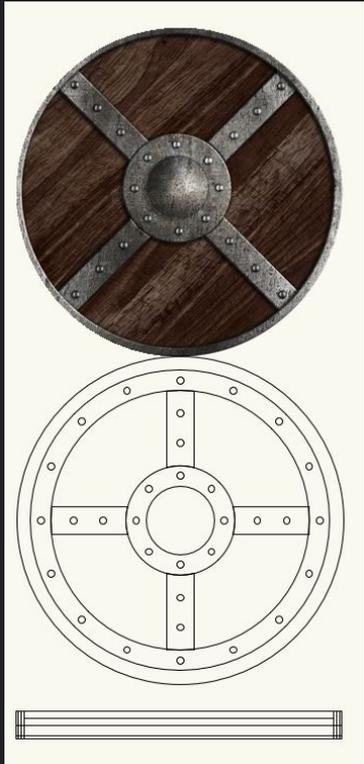
- Umbrella should be the kind that automatically closes into the center, to give the effect of defeat when Agnes stabs it in the eye.
- eyes worn like backpack, while actor holds umbrella in front of them.



Left: Heart Design Rendering
 Right: Construction Drawing
 Below: Beholder Design Rendering



AGNES' SHIELD

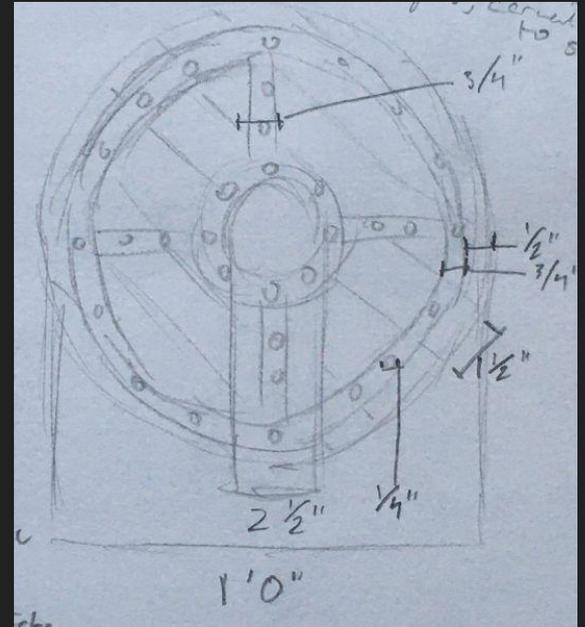
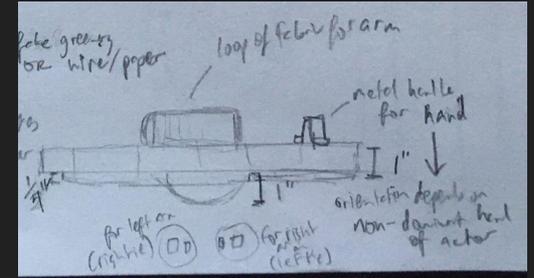


Initial draft + reference image

[\(Source\)](#)



Design Renderings



Construction Drawings

DESIGN RESEARCH- WEAPONS



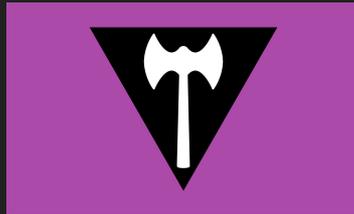
Above: Reference for Tilly's blade shape
Source: Outfit4events.com



Left: Reference for Tilly's hilt shape
Source: [Ken Nguyen](#)



Left: Reference for Lilith's Axe Head
Source: [Walmart](#)



Above: Inspiration for Agnes' hilt
Source: [Fabri Armorum](#)

Left: Lilith's Axe shape/colors inspired by Labrys Lesbian flag
[Source](#)



Inspiration for Kaliope's Bow Style
Source: [The Elder Scrolls Wiki](#)



Inspiration for Kaliope's Bow Style
Source: [ShadowDragon22](#)



Reference for Kaliope's Bow Shape
Source: [Cosplay Now](#)

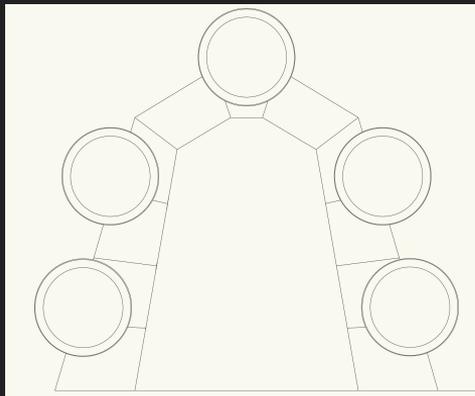


Reference for Agnes' blade shape
Source: [Thomas Schreiter](#)

TIAMAT

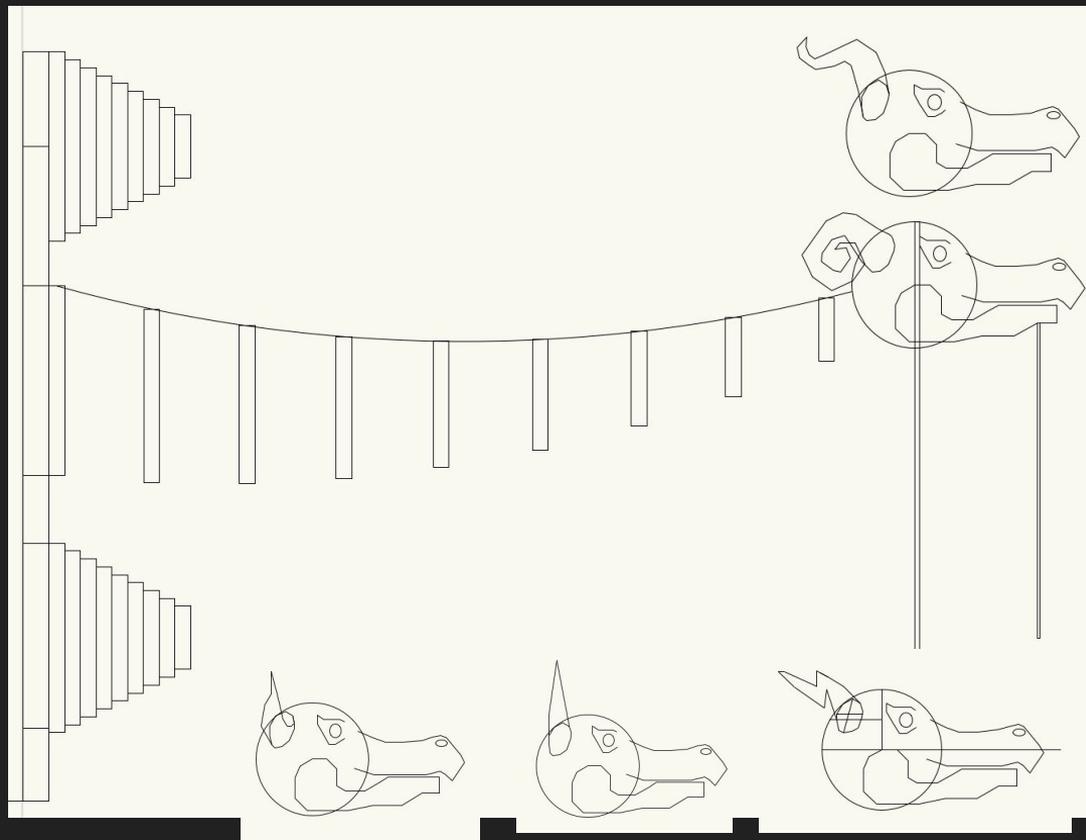


Dragon/Archway Sketch



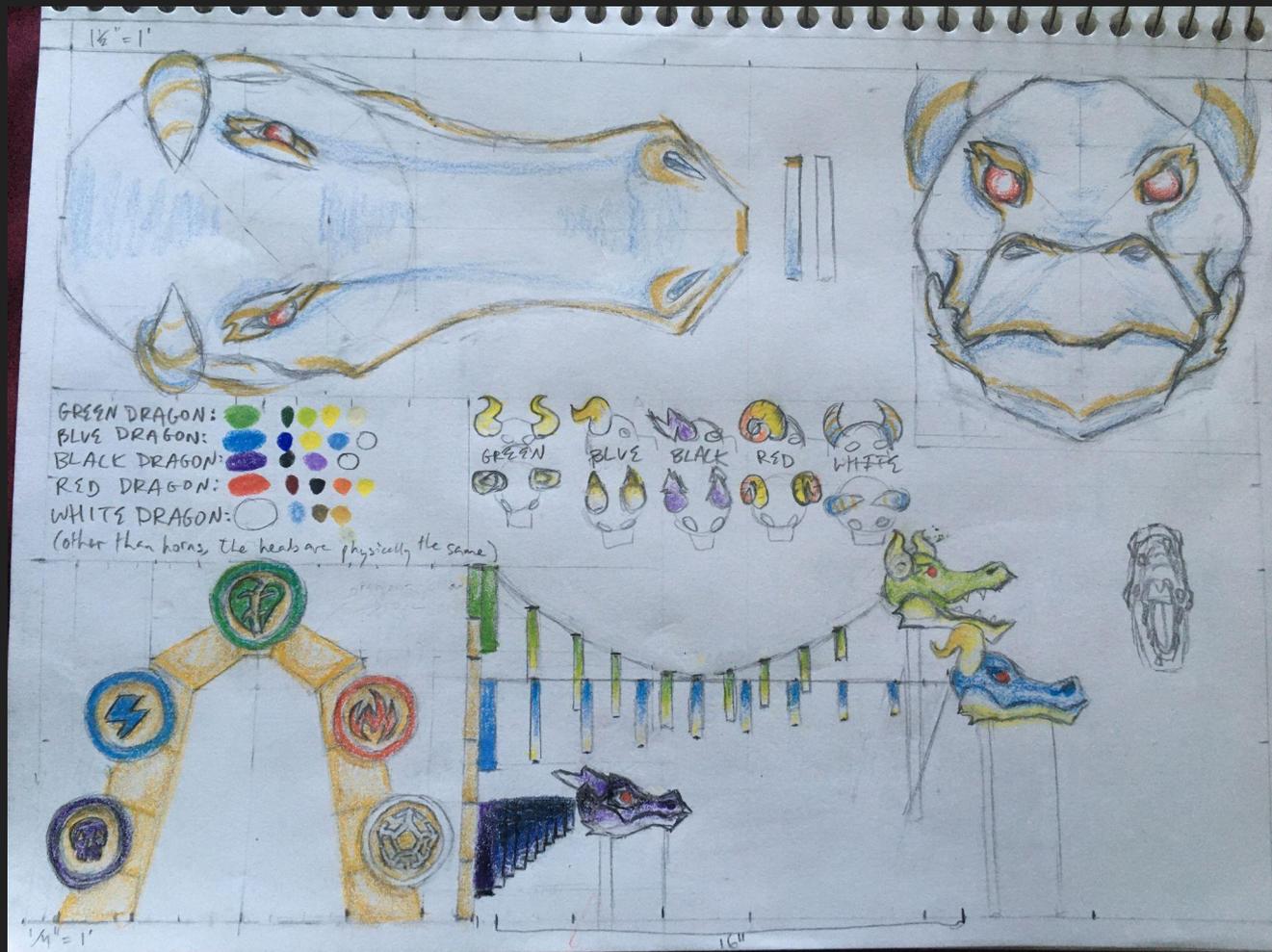
Archway Initial Draft

Below: Dragon/Archway initial draft, profile with heads



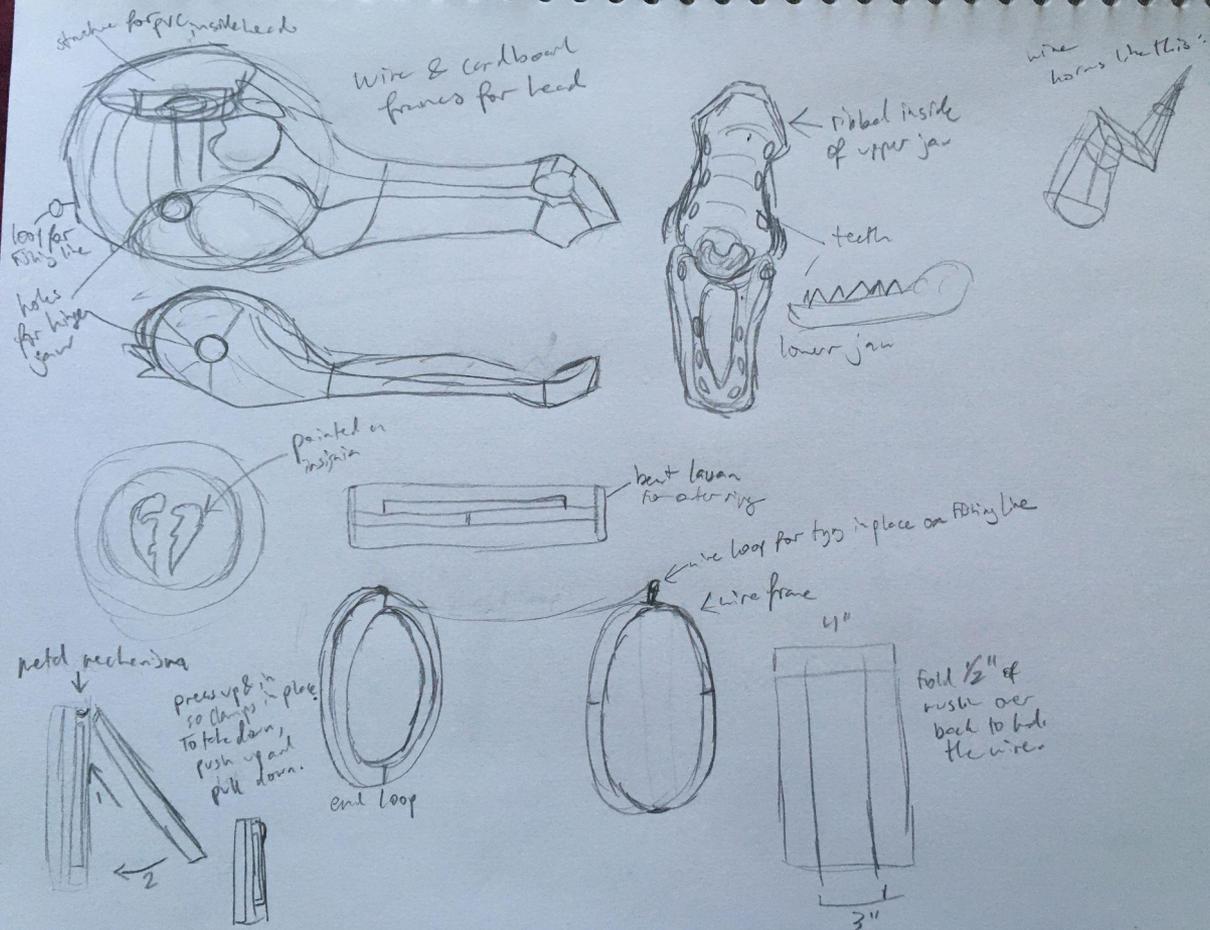
TIAMAT

Dragon & Archway Design
Renderings



TIAMAT

Dragon & Archway Construction Drawings



MATERIALS LIST PAGE 1

Agnes' Sword:

BASE: 2'10 3/4" of 1/2" PVC Pipe

BLADE: (x2) 2'4"x2" of 1/2" EVA Foam

CROSSGUARD: 7"x2" rectangle of 1/2" ply

GRIP: Scraps of air dry clay to shape, strips of fabric/leather/athletic tape/etc. for cover

POMMEL: (x3) 2.5"x2.5" pieces of 1/4" lauan

Tilly's Sword:

BASE: 3'3" of 1/2" PVC Pipe

BLADE: (x2) 2'7"x3'1/4" of 1/2" EVA Foam

SNAKE: tin foil base, worbla exterior (~9'5"sq. in total). Yellow rhinestones for eyes.

GRIP: air dry clay to shape with some tin foil for padding out underneath. Use string or thin & blunt straight edges for indent pattern.

POMMEL: Large wooden bead (~1" dia.), scraps of worbla to create flame shape

Lilith's Axe:

BASE: 2'2" of 1/2" PVC Pipe

BLADE: (x2) 14"x14" piece of 1/2" EVA Foam

GRIP: rubber cement with lines drawn in for wood grain texture.

Fabric for where hands should be. Fake fur and feathers for above and below the blade and top fabric grip, as well as above the pommel.

POMMEL: Black, purple, and clear resin cast in mold.

EMBELLISHMENT: (x4) 1.5"x3" of 1/4" lauan for ♀, (x4) 1"x1" circle of 1/4" lauan for bolts

Kaliopé's Bow:

BASE: 1' of 1" PVC Pipe

LIMBS: (x2) 1'8" of 1" clear acrylic tubing, (x4) ~1.5"x2'8" strips of 1/2" EVA foam.

STRING: ~3'2" of fishing line

LIGHT: small LED that turns on when button held down

DECORATIONS: Worbla for large leaves next to grip. For vine, wrap wire, brown butcher paper, and fake vines/greenery together. Canvas-like fabric for grip, folds glued in place, painted with streaks of green/yellow/white.

MATERIALS LIST PAGE 2

Tiamat:

HEAD & HORNS: craft wire (~14-20 gauge), cardboard, paper mâché.

EYES: (x10) Red LED lights, plastic egg carton packaging cut to size (1 carton needed for 10 eyes).

STICKS: (x5) 7' of 1/2" PVC pipe for head, (x5) 4' of 1/4" wooden dowel for jaw.

BODY STRING: ~80' of clear fishing line

BODY RINGS: 239'2" of 4" wide strips of starched muslin (~80 sqft), 478'4" of craft wire (~14-20 gauge)

END RING: (x5) 3' circle of 1.5" plywood (or 1"+1/2"ply), 2'6" cutout from center.

WALL MOUNTS: (x5) boards 9'6"x5" of 1/8" Lauan (bent into circles), (x5) 3' circles of 1/2"plywood, (x5) 2'6" circles of 3/4" plywood. Thin metal strips for mechanism to make end loops stay in place.

Miles' Heart:

BASE: ball of tin foil

EXTERIOR: air-dry clay

Agnes' Shield:

BASE: 5 gal paint bucket lid

PLANKS: 1.5" wide strips of 1/2" ply (one 12" long, two 11.5", two 10.75", and two 8" for a total of 6'1/2", or 9'3/4")

HANDLES: 10"x4" of thick fabric for arm loop. Metal handle that fits the actor's hand; could be custom made from bent sheet of metal, or worbla with metal/craft wire core.

METAL PATTERN: 11" circle with 9.5" circle cutout, and 4" circle in 1/4" lauan. x4) 1"x3" strips in 1/8" lauan.

EMBELLISHMENT: (x32) 1/4"dia. upholstery tacks. 3D printed dome 2.5" across, 1" tall in center.

Vera the Beholder:

BODY: Umbrella, painted. (likely fabric paint, to prevent cracks/breaking)

EYES: Paper mâché, fabric for eyelids (glued or starched into wrinkles/creases)

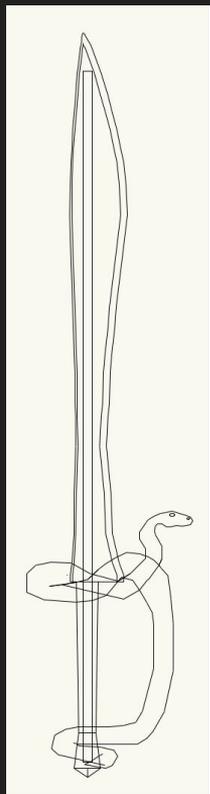
EYESTALKS: 15' of stockings (~3?) stuffed with plastic bags/newspaper/etc. , ~15' ball socket armature for inside structure and posing.

BACKPACK: Solid plate in the back, like lauan or plastic, so armatures can be attached. Straps made of fabric or taken from pre-existing bag/backpack strap.

MATERIALS BUDGET

Item	Quantity	Uses	Unit Price	Total Cost
1/2" PVC Pipe	41'4"	Both swords, Axe, Dragon Head Supports	\$2.91/10'	\$12.18
1' PVC Pipe	1'	Bow	\$5.28/10'	\$0.53
1/2" EVA Foam	~4 24"x24" pieces	Both swords, Axe, Bow	\$25.99/4	\$25.99
1/4" Lauan	7.5" sq.	Tilly's Sword, Shield, Axe	\$14.98/8'x4'	\$14.98
1/8" Lauan	20' sq.	Tiamat Wall Mounts, Shield	\$16.99/8'x4'	\$16.99
3/4" Plywood	25' sq.	Tiamat End Ring	\$85.98/4'x8'	\$85.98
1/2" Plywood	47' sq.	Tilly's Sword, Shield, Tiamat	\$69.45/4'x8'	\$138.90
Fishing Line	83'2"	Tiamat, Bow	\$6.99/656'	\$6.99
Model Magic	Not much	Both swords, heart	\$3.49/4oz	\$3.49
Upholstery Tacks		32 Shield	\$4.99/100pc	\$4.99
Tin Foil	~5' max.	Tilly's sword, heart	\$3.79/roll	\$3.79
Worbla		Tilly's Sword, Bow	\$28.00/14.5"x19.5"	\$28
Casting Resin	Not much	Axe	\$18.99 for set	\$18.99
Umbrella		1 Beholder	\$17.99 ea.	\$17.99
Stockings/Tights	3 pairs	Beholder	\$14.50 ea.	\$43.50
Ball Socket Armature	15'	Beholder	\$15.99/10pc(~12" ea.)	\$31.98
Craft Wire (18 gauge)	A Whole Lot	Tiamat	\$15.69/492'	\$15.69
Red LED Lights		10 Tiamat Eyes	\$11.99/12pc	\$11.99
Hold Button LED		1 Bow	~\$10	\$10.00
1/4" wooden dowel	20'	Tiamat	\$1.01/4'	\$5.05
Muslin	<1 yd	Tiamat	\$2.83/yd (45")	\$2.83
			Total:	\$500.83

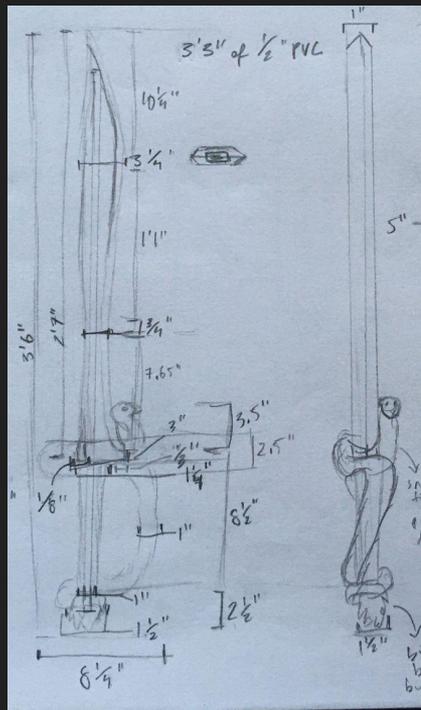
TILLY'S SWORD



Initial Draft



Design Rendering



Construction Drawing



Partially-flattened 1/2" PVC Pipe base + 1/2" PVA foam cutout with divot for blade, glued with barge

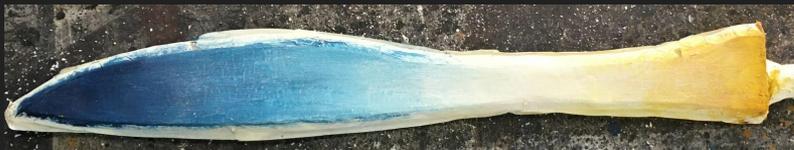


Lines for beveled edges drawn on foam blade base



Beveled edge created by carving, dremel, sanding

TILLY'S SWORD



Hard coating added. beveled edges taped off and color gradient painted.



Sky details and gold edge painted, coat of gloss



Snake is polyethylene foam with thick wire core. Air dry foam to shape snake and grip. Right: Snake wrapped in fabric & a layer of Sculpt Or Coat.



Snake painted blue with highlights, shadows, & gold flecks.



Pommel made from hardware painted gold and blue bead



Final Product

LILITH'S AXE



Carved detail into foam with pencil. Added 3 dimensional elements with air dry foam and hot glue



Began base coat of painting, attached plastic bead sanded to form irregular shape.



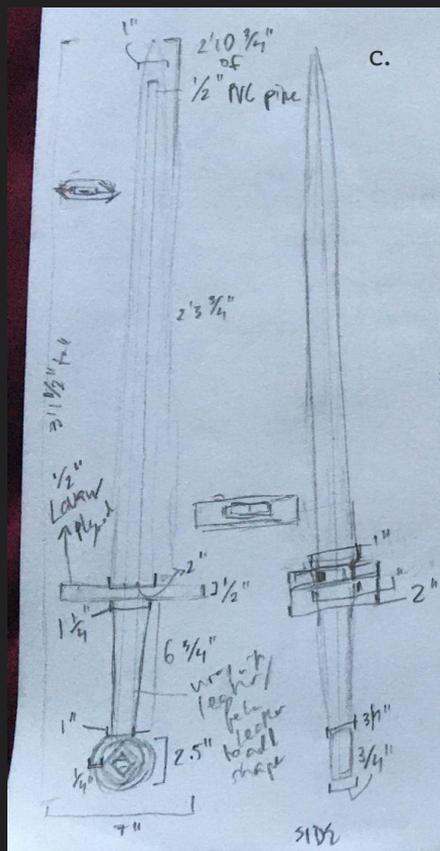
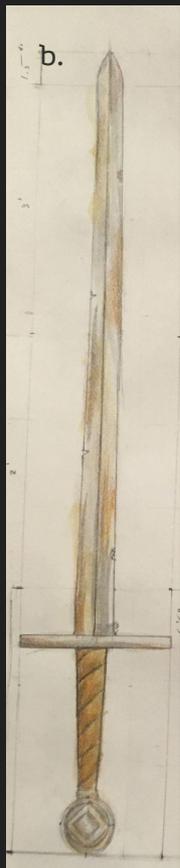
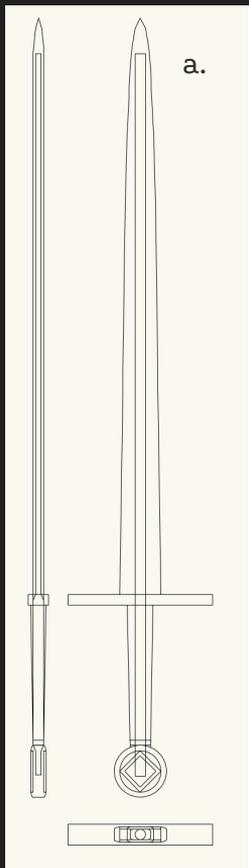
Painted details, added fur and wrappings



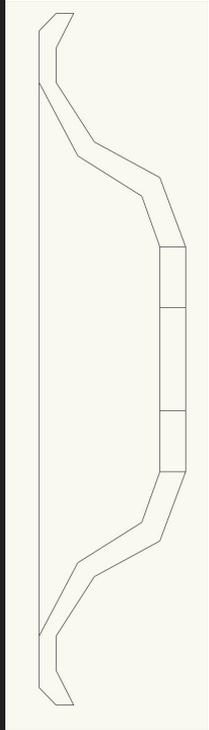
Details strengthened for final version

L-R: a. Initial Draft, b. Design Rendering, c. Construction drawing, d. pieces of small dowel for base, e. added leather wrap and carved bead pommel to hilt & foam blade, f. mid-paint, and g. final product

AGNES' SWORD



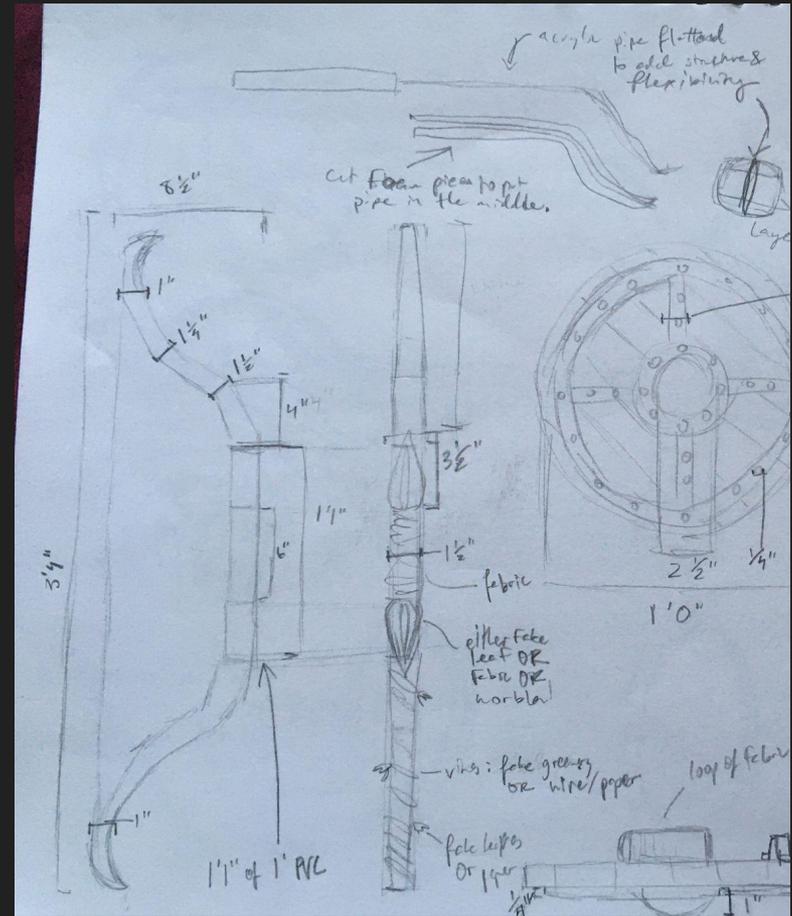
KALIOPE'S BOW



Initial Draft



Design Rendering

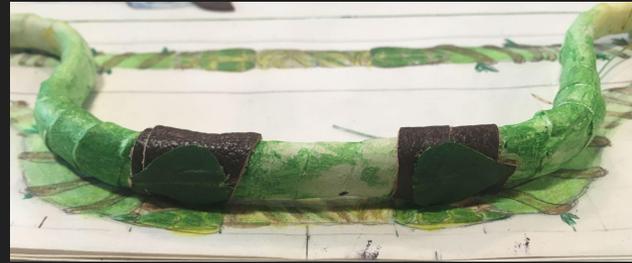


Construction Drawing

KALIOPE'S BOW



Heating up plastic tubing to cut into slices to use as substitute for full size PVC pipe. Curved into shape.



Process of painting and adding detail



Left: wrapped in tape and EVA foam



Final Product

TIAMAT ARCHWAY



Left:
Backing
cut
from
MDF



Heat strips of flattened PVC pipe to fit circles

Cut and carve foam to resemble stones



Painted stones & insignias
transferred through dots

TIAMAT DRAGONS



Created wire frames & cover with tape



Create wire loops



Process of painting heads



Use tape on the loops & paint them, before stringing



Final Combined Product