

RUFF SKETCHES: THE ART OF PHOEBE SULLIVAN

by

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by

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## **ARTIST STATEMENT**

I've been drawing for as long as I can remember. Most children like to draw and I just never stopped. I'm rarely caught without a sketchbook; most of my ideas develop there. My favorite childhood books and animated films, as well as my love of animals and nature, continue to be inspirations for my passion for drawing and creating. I love to bring entertaining and meaningful stories to life and have a drive for learning and continuing to find new ways to improve my work. I was the kid who would reread favorite books and re-watch movies to immerse myself in the stories again and again. Once DVDs were widely available, I would sit and watch the special features and be utterly fascinated by the work that goes into making a film. All of these factors influenced my drive to become an artist that tells stories and helps to create wide-reaching projects – either my own, or someone else's.

### **1. "Ruff Sketches" – Exhibition Poster**

This piece was made for an open project in my Advanced Illustration class. I used the opportunity to create a poster to advertise my senior portfolio exhibition and reception. My obsession with corgis made for a quick decision for the theme of the poster, and thus, my show's title. We are required to include certain information on show posters, such as concentration, dates, and location. I decided to have the corgi sketching on pieces of loose paper, which both contain the required information and create visual flow down the poster, to keep the viewer engaged. I also chose a quirky type to match the poster's theme.

### **2. Seasons of Redwall: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Calendar**

The criterion of this project for my Advanced Illustration course was to create an illustrated calendar with a specific theme. We were required to create a cover image and two interior illustrations laid out in a calendar format. I chose to create a tribute calendar for one of my favorite book series, *Redwall*, by the late Brian Jacques. *Redwall's* 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of publication is in 2016, so I chose to do a 2016 calendar. The two books I chose for the interior illustrations are *Redwall* and *Taggerung*. The illustrations are inspired by, but are my own personal take on existing illustrations for the series, as well as based on descriptions of important characters and objects from the books themselves. I plan on continuing this series of pieces.

### **3. Google Doodle – National Dog Day**

This project was for my Digital Illustration class. The project assignment was to create a “Google Doodle” – an illustration that could potentially be used as a header for Google, perhaps highlighting a specific day. I chose to create one based on “National Dog Day” – a U.S. holiday on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **4. Corgi Zine – Fetch!**

I completed this piece outside of school, as a contribution to a corgi-themed zine (a short, self-published magazine of related work) – the proceeds from which were to help a child with autism get a service corgi. The zine was organized by a fellow illustrator and had many different artists’ contributions.

### **5. “Mentor” Character Design Process**

This was a series of work for my Concept Art course. The pieces show the various steps of a character design pipeline that might be seen in character design for animation or video games. I began with quick silhouettes and then chose interesting ones to continue refining. Finally, I settled on one character design and color scheme.

## **6. Dragons of the World**

This was a piece for my watercolor course; the theme given was “history”, so I chose to illustrate various types of dragons from different cultures. The cultures and types of dragons represented in the piece are Chinese (the Loong), Indian (Naga), French (wyvern), and Scandinavian (Lindworm).

## **7. Over the Edge**

This was another piece from my Concept Art class – an environment and character study, simulating what a scene might look like in the final animated (or graphic novel) context. I wanted the scene to depict the main character exploring, and about to make an important discovery. I also wanted to show what the overall environment might look like, with a focus on ensuring that the character and environment worked well together stylistically.

## **8. “Timeless Classics” Distillery Labels**

This series was a project for my Intermediate Illustration class, where we were given the task of designing packaging for food or drinks. I chose to pair modern classic books with types of liquors. The books I chose were *A Clockwork Orange*, *Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*, and *The Catcher in the Rye*, because they all have personal meaning to me. I

chose liquors that were a pun on the books. I designed the labels with illustrations of the main characters, type that I felt matched the books, and excerpts from the books themselves in the backgrounds.

### **9. Sapling – Personal Book Project**

This was a project for my Intermediate Illustration class where we were to design and illustrate a small book. Writing the book ourselves was not a requirement, but I was excited about the project and decided to go above and beyond and use a narrative that I wrote with my own original characters. The minimum page requirement for the project was four, but I ended up doing seven spreads. The theme of the book is about protecting and caring for nature and a bond between a parent and child.

### **10. Greenskeeper and Sapling Character Sheets**

After I completed my book project, I designed two character sheets for an open project in my Intermediate Illustration course. Character sheets are a way of showing aspects of the character that need to remain consistent throughout the context in which they are used (such as in animation). The sheets may contain a turnaround of the character, which shows the character from multiple angles for reference. They may also show various expressions or movements of the characters themselves.

### **11. Self Promotion – Business Card Designs**

I created business card designs for an open project in my Advanced Illustration class. One set features my characters from my book, *Sapling*, and the other has a cute corgi

theme. Both cards feature links to my portfolio website, business email, and social media pages for my artwork.