

## Kate Dankanich

Kate Dankanich's work is whimsical, fantastical, full of charming creatures, and shows her deep love and adoration for nature. Inspired by children's illustrations, classic animation, and storybooks, Kate has a deep love for storytelling and the magic these artforms left in all of us as children. Her animations, digital illustrations, and drawings all seek to reclaim and reimagine comfortable and safe forests, valleys, and rivers - in an illustrative style familiar to the inner child in all of us - where her quaint animal characters live. She likes to add touches of mystery, liminality, and occasionally melancholy and sadness to her fantasy worlds. Her characters often appear alone in vast environments, suggesting loneliness or searching for connection.

Kate was born in 2002 and raised in Colorado Springs where she continues to live today. As a child she suffered from a chronic illness, which had her in and out of hospitals and sitting for hours on end doing physical therapies which gave her a lot of free time to let her imagination wander. She read voraciously as a child and consumed animated movies and TV shows to occupy her mind and time. Today she combines these two callings and creates worlds and characters she hopes others will fall in love with or perhaps find a moment of escape from an ever-darkening and terrifying world. In 2023, Kate was given the opportunity to illustrate her first children's book, a lifelong goal she hopes to be able to repeat in the coming years. In 2024, Kate will be graduating with a BA in Visual Art from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. Kate primarily makes work in her bedroom studio with her cat curled on her lap.

*Twos A Long Time Ago....* Digital animation still, 1920 x 1080 px, 2023

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