

Notes from the Illustrators

A Trip to the Hospital by *Freda Chiu*

“I created the illustrations with a mixed media technique using a combination of collage, mono printing (to create some interesting textures), pastels, gouache, acrylic paint, pencils and crayons. Before I dived into creating final art, I planned my illustrations by making a sketch and rough colour plan for each spread to use as a guide. Illustration is often 80% planning and 20% actual art making, so I try my best not to be hasty with planning, as it is the skeleton of the art. After that, I transferred my sketch to watercolour paper and let loose on the page with my materials! During this stage, I let the mediums guide me and tried to channel my inner child by drawing/painting in an intentionally imperfect, bold manner. I really wanted to capture the warmth of the hospital workers and children in the book, so this technique along with the bright bold colour palette seemed appropriate. For greater flexibility in my composition, I painted/drew some of the spreads as composite parts and assembled them together digitally on Adobe Photoshop after I scanned them. This was in case changes needed to be made. After I adjusted colours and edited the final art digitally, I sent the files off to the designer who dropped them into the page layouts with text.”

Everyday Wonders by *Natala Graetz*

“To create “Everyday Wonders” I used a program called Procreate with an iPad and an Apple pencil as my medium. It’s an amazing tool to use when travelling, or if you don’t have pencils or a sketchbook on hand, or in my case, had a baby and needed to be flexible! I have attached a picture of what I mean if that helps.

I sketched up over 40 versions of each page roughly and then transferred my designs onto the computer using Adobe Indesign and Photoshop to create the final book.”

For Love by *Cristina Neri*

“I sketched out the story as one continuous narrative on sheets of sketch paper that were taped together because I wanted the illustrations and ideas to flow into each other just as a string of words form the narrative of a story.

The next part of the process was to break apart the images and transfer them onto a surface called clayboard. Then I’d use black ink applied with brushes and pens to define the images and a scalpel-like tool to scratch into the inked surface to create an etching effect.

After I completed all of the black ink panels, I had the images scanned as black and white images saved as bitmap files. I then placed the scans directly into the Indesign file along with the text. As they were bitmap images, I was able to apply a spot pantone colour to the black artwork. I then only used cyan, magenta and yellow print inks, replacing the traditional black press ink with the pantone dark blue. In the colour palette in Indesign, I created a red and skin tone using yellow and magenta and a green using cyan and yellow, as well as using the yellow as is. I then created shapes of these colours under the pantone blue coloured image. In this way, it is much more like screen printing as opposed to a digital illustration created in photoshop or procreate.”