

**KAY DUNHAM-TORRES**

NOBODY CALLS ME KAYLA



ILLUSTRATOR



GRAPHIC DESIGNER



STORYTELLER


HELLO

I'M KAY, NOBODY CALLS ME KAYLA

My partner calls me a cartoon character, my friends call me a force of nature, but I call myself a storyteller. I'm Kay, an illustrator and graphic designer based in Seattle, WA, on a mission to make the world a little different—and a lot better—through art. Fueled by adventure and the stories I collect along the way, I create with the goal of leaving a positive impact wherever I go.

My journey has taken me across animation, illustration, and design, giving me a wealth of experiences to draw from, literally and figuratively. From creating a hit animated music video to interviewing authors and movie stars, my career has been anything but ordinary. And the adventure is far from over.

If you're looking for a creative collaborator, a fellow storyteller, or just someone to swap wild ideas with, let's connect. Whether it's working together, sharing stories, or just geeking out over great design, I'd love to hear from you.





Quarantine (Interzone) 2024 @ Lazeretto, Spain



# MY SKILLS AND SUPERPOWERS

## PROGRAMS

Adobe Illustrator



Adobe Photoshop



Adobe InDesign



Adobe After Effects



Procreate



Google Workspace



Microsoft Office



## TECHNICAL

Digital Illustration



Traditional Illustration



Graphic Design



Vector Design



Typography



Animated Illustration



Art Direction



## SUPERPOWERS

Public Speaking



*Love it, used to teach it, makes me happy*

Teaching

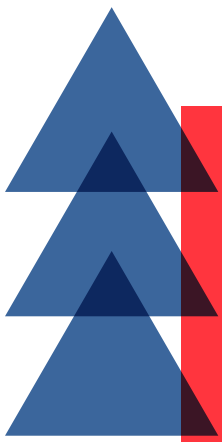


*Art, leadership, presentation skills, and more*

Synesthesia



*For lack of a better explanation: I can taste color (???)*



**GRAPHIC DESIGN**  
BOLD AND BRIGHT TO  
TELL THEIR TALES





## A PARENTS' LOVE

The story behind Caffeto 21 is built on a parents' love for their child.

Caffeto 21 was an American Dream pursued by Mexican immigrants to make a better life for their child with Down Syndrome. When they realized the world wasn't designed for a child like theirs, they packed up their life as successful café owners in Mexico and moved to America in search of more assistance and support.

The Caffeto 21 brand is designed around their child. The 21 refers to the additional or malformed 21st chromosome that children with Down Syndrome have. The three squares represent the appearance of the 21st chromosome, only adding to the visual story so important to these loving parents making a world for their child.



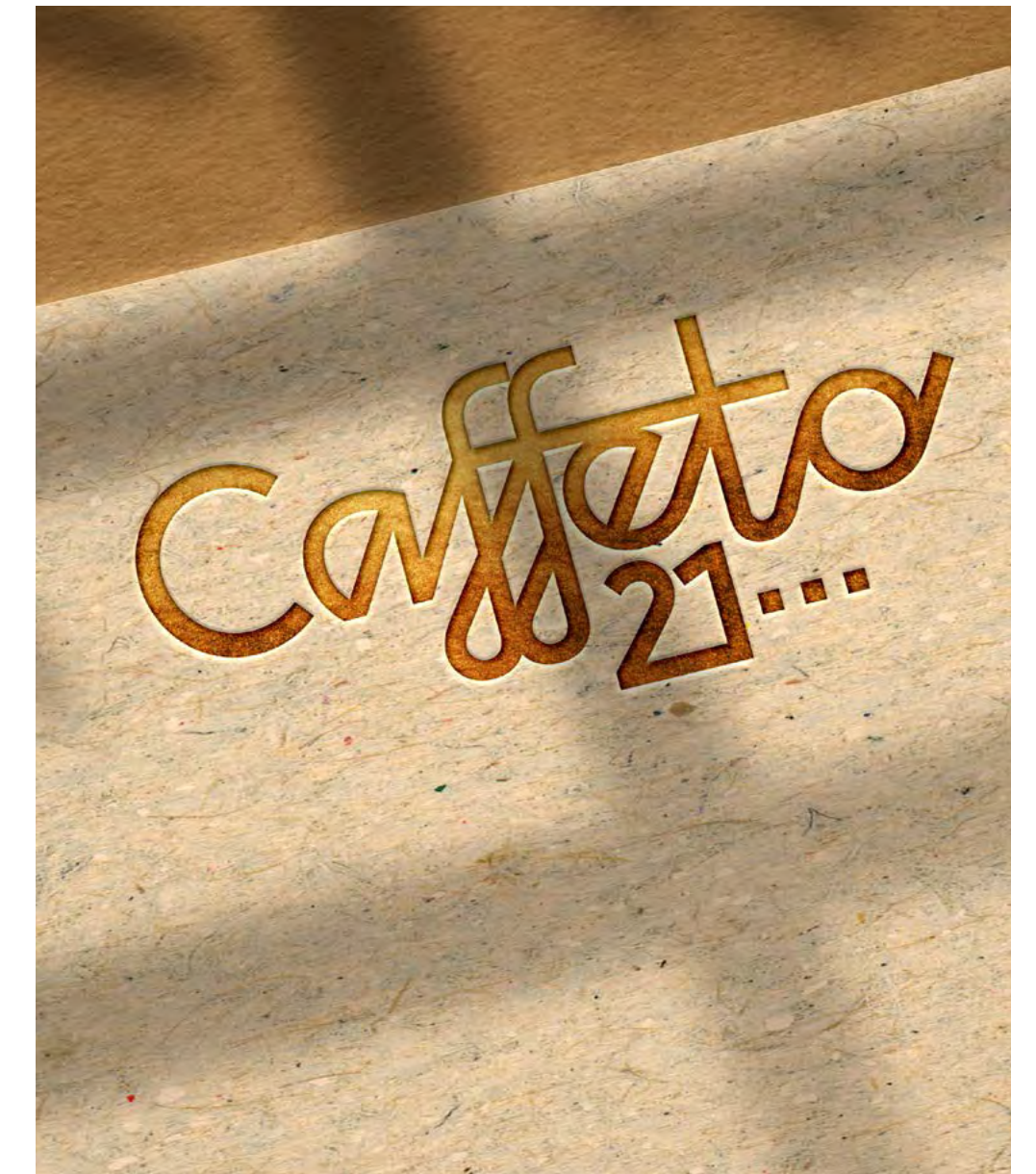
## STAFF UNIFORM SHIRTS

The uniforms are kept simple with the logo design front and center. But as important the logo is to the brand, so are colors. Each uniform fits into a classic coffee color from a milky latte to a dark roast.



## TO-GO CUPS

The beauty of the to-go cup is the ease of advertising your business. The design best features the brand without deliberately saying "café". This is done through color and shape language that follow the Caffeto 21 brand.



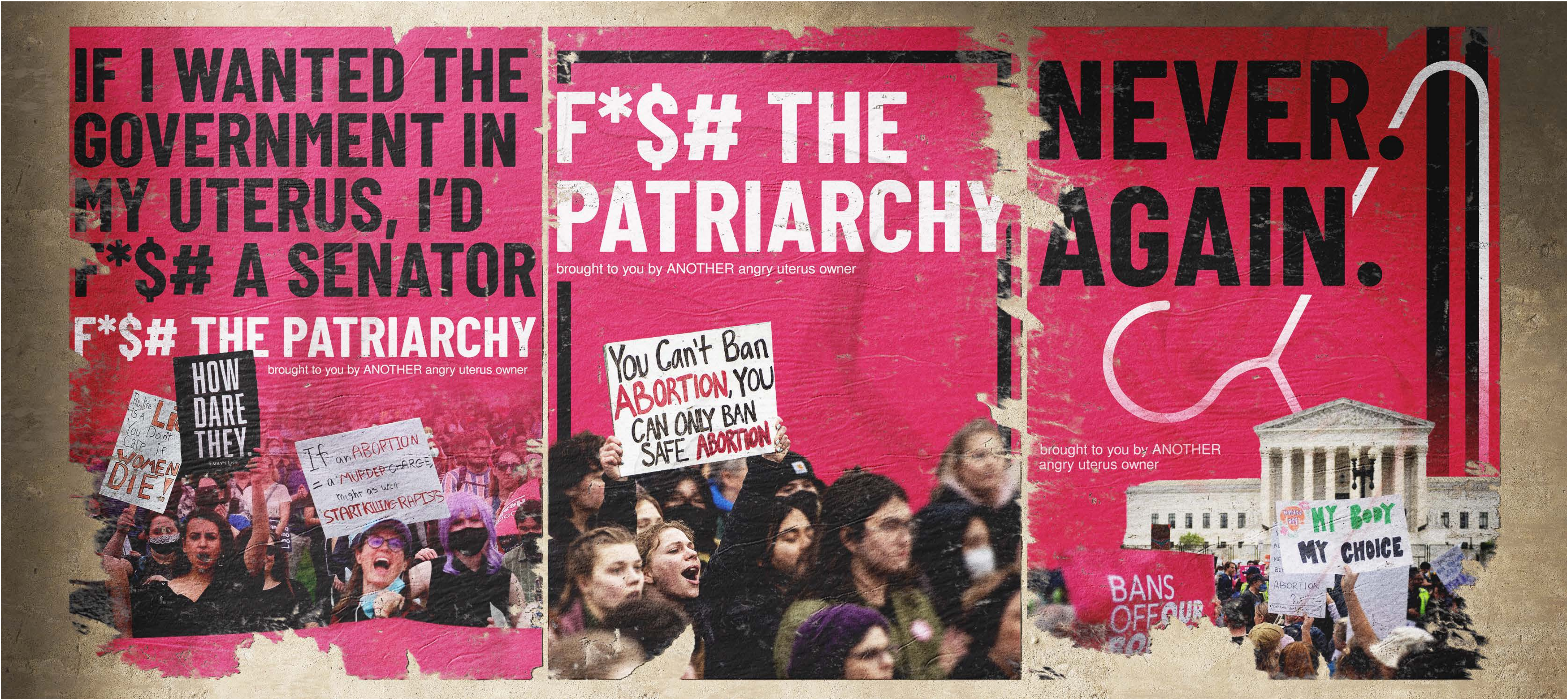
## PRINT MATERIAL

Sustainable material is important to the owners as they strive to not only improve Down Syndrome awareness, but to advocate for the environment. Fortunately for the brand as well is most environmentally sustainable products come in tans and warm colors.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY ANOTHER ANGRY UTERUS OWNER

Through humor, honesty, and history, this project “Brought to You By ANOTHER Angry Uterus Owner” is a powerful visual campaign advocating for reproductive rights and bodily autonomy for all, particularly in response to restrictive abortion laws. Recurring across all three posters is a bold rejection of patriarchal control over women’s bodies, only amplified by the slogan “F\$# THE PATRIARCHY”\* and the title of the works as a tagline “brought to you by ANOTHER angry uterus owner.”





# CREEPY PUPPETS

## ASSET BUILDING

They may look a little unconventional, but these little guys were designed to help children learn maths and English. With engagement and questions like “Can you count all the buttons?” or “Tell us the story of Pebble and where he comes from.”, the off-natured look to these characters is what makes them such great teachers. Research shows that children, and even some adults, create strong relationships with fictional characters and narratives. Even something seemingly unimportant like helping a character achieve a mission has been shown to contribute to information retention and build empathy in developing children. Archie, Richie, Pebble, and Ike help kids all over the world learn, grow, and become better people.



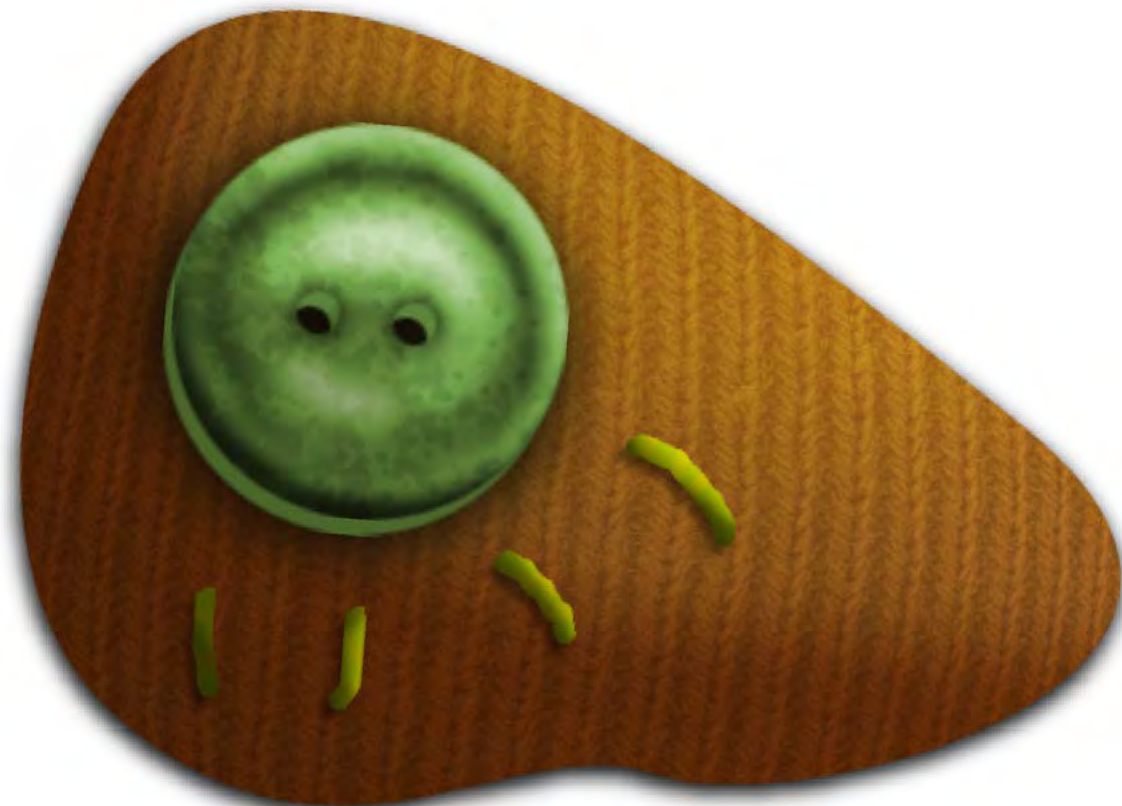
Arnold



Richie



Pebble



Ike

**ILLUSTRATION**  
THE WORLD THROUGH  
MY EYES



# ALIVE

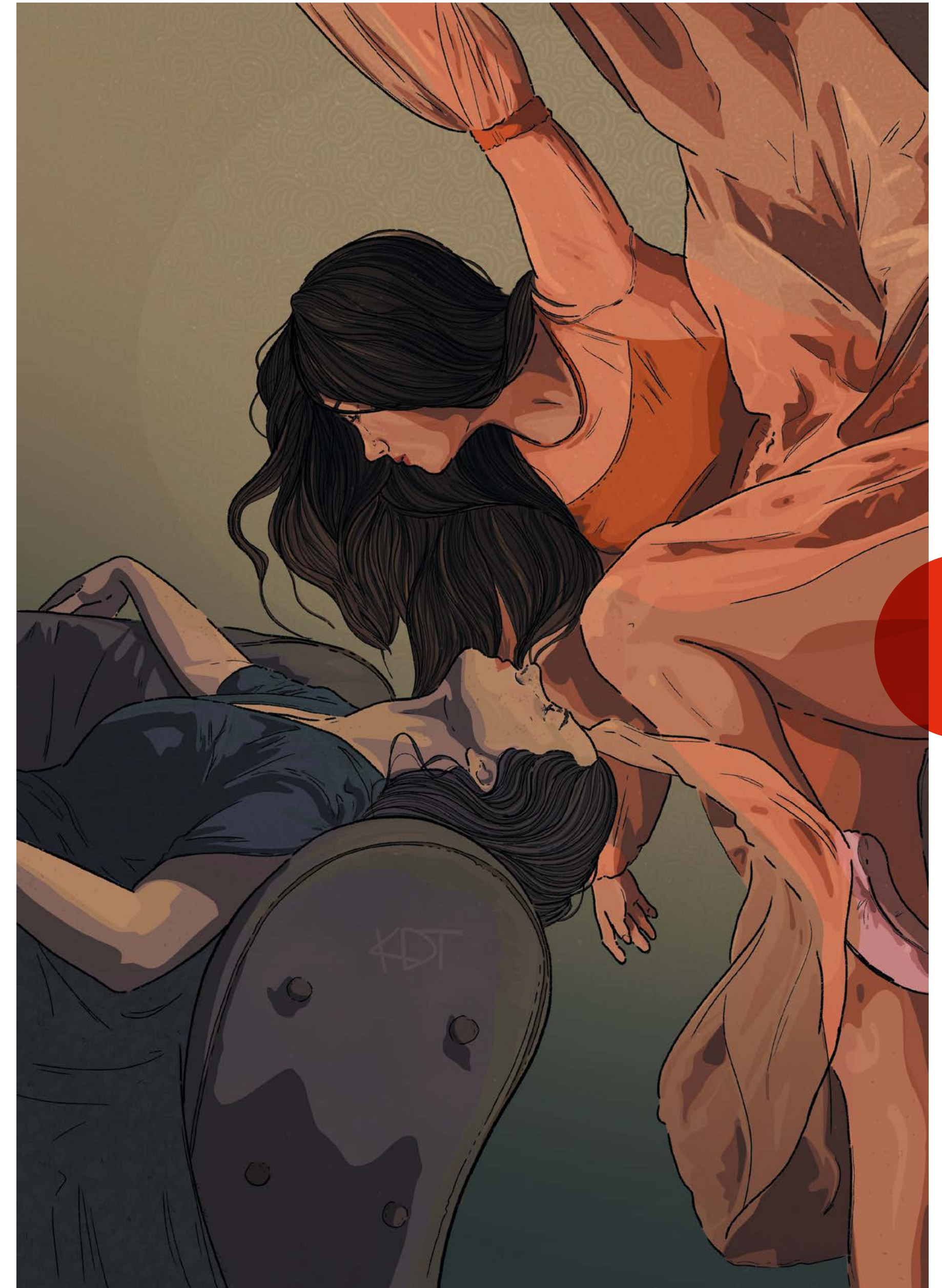
## OCT. 2023

*Procreate*

Inspired by the journey of a cancer survivor, this story captures the profound struggles of living in a body that feels like a prison that you can't escape.

As my friend endured the trials of a cancer diagnosis, chemotherapy, and the relentless fight she must face everyday, she revealed that the most harrowing aspect wasn't the treatment or the illness itself. Instead, it was the heartbreaking realization that her own body was betraying her, holding her back from the simple joys of life—dancing, laughing, and moving freely in a body that once felt like her own. Making the feeling worse was not being understood by those around who aren't facing the same constant battle for their own survival.

Movement was the very essence of her existence. "Alive" embodies the unseen challenges of inhabiting a body that no longer feels like it's working for you, highlighting the internal battle of a life yearning to be lived fully.





# THE BOY

NOV. 2024

*Watercolor illustration*

When I was 13, I lost my best friend—one of the purest, kindest souls I’ve ever known. He was magic, a true musical savant who impressed even the stuffiest PTA moms. By the time he passed, he had mastered the piano, trombone, trumpet, saxophone, tuba, and recorder, and he was beginning to explore string instruments like the ukulele and guitar.

During lunch hour, we would sneak out of the cafeteria and into the music storage closet near the gym—a dynamic duo of troublemakers. While I banged away at every instrument (none of which I could actually play), he would touch the piano keys, and the world would come to life. Though the boy in this painting isn’t an exact likeness of my friend, his smile reminded me of the musical boy I once knew and loved.

This portrait is my attempt to capture the smile I once sought out in school assemblies and across the playground. It is my way of preserving what remains of my best friend—his infectious smile.





# PTSD

JAN. 2021

*Watercolor illustration*

It is deeply personal, the struggles of PTSD. It's a memory playing on a rickety projector always in the back of your head. It rattles and creaks, squeaks as it spins, but it doesn't stop.

The video that plays is black and white, the tape skipping and the film dirty. You can hardly see the picture from below the grime. Your eyes wrinkle and shake as you squint when the screen suddenly blazes with color that nearly blinds you. The picture become crystal clear as if it's happening right in front of you, only a few feet away and at the tip of your fingers. It's impossible, like staring into the sun but cold all over. And you can't look away.

It never ends, black and white then color again. Black and white then color again. Black and white then color again. Until you can't take it anymore and the projector explodes. You try and shut your eyes but their glued open, forced to watch the glass break and your mind come undone.

It's deeply personal, the way it kills you everyday. It's a fight with impossible stats not in your favor. The projector keeps spinning, the film keeps playing, and nothing ever changes.





**CONTACT**

LET’S CREATE STORIES

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