



Mai Tran

ART PORTFOLIO



About me

A Vietnamese self-taught painter
focusing on children's book
illustration.



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Study

01.

Personal projects



A rainy day in the woods

Describing the fragility of the character
compared to the environment



Water color on paper (17,5 x 20,5 cm)



To the hunt

Inspired by Lord of the Flies
by William Golding



Water color on paper (17,5 x 20,5 cm)



Water color on paper (17,5 x 20,5 cm)

A leisurely breakfast

The character is drawn smaller than the stack of pancakes to emphasize how well-immersed he is in happiness.



A morning by the green house

The contrast of the fresh vegetables
inside the green house and the golden
leaves highlights how content the
character is with his well-organized life.



Water color on paper (17,5 x 20,5 cm)

Hanging strings of lights

The pervading golden hue of the light lends a warm atmosphere to the cozy nest of the mice couple.



Water color on paper (15 x 11 cm)



Water color on paper (29 x 20 cm)



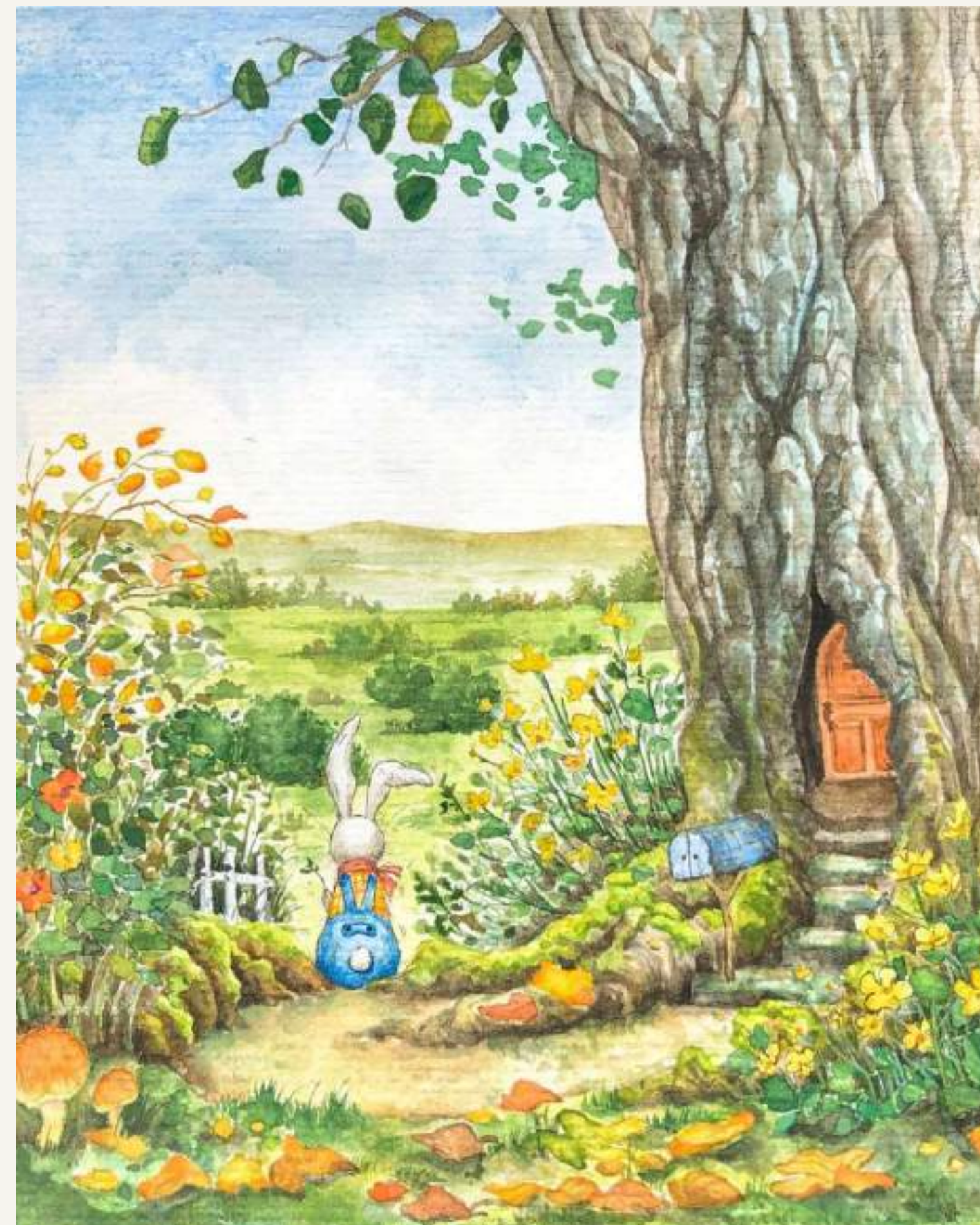
Ride on

Juxtaposing the cold icy roads
with the warm mellow lights
from the tree houses to
emphasize how lonely yet
determined the character feels,
riding through the blizzard.



Til the next adventure

The character is positioned on the edge of a small and narrow walkway, marking the border between his cramped front yard and the vast landscape in the background to imply his desire to travel and curiosity about the world.



Water color on paper (17,5 x 20,5 cm)



Color pencil and ink on paper (17,5 x 20,5 cm)

A sleepyhead

The light from the window provides a natural guide for the eye to the sleeping baby squirrel. Little items scattering around the space creates a lived-in feeling for his home.

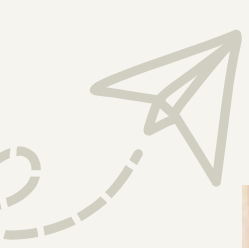


02. Children book illustration projects



Water color on paper (20 x 8 cm)





Water color on paper (20,5 x 10 cm)

Project 1

Three children learning about the world and seeing it through the lense of their imagination. The first picture depicts the mother reading a book to them with an ambiance filled with yellow light from the lamp. The lamp is placed behind the mother, drawing the attention to her. Linework is reduced to create a soft and light feeling to the painting.



The overall tone of the painting was dominated by pastel colors to create a youthful feel to the scene



The sky was created with vibrant shades of purple and orange in wet-on-wet coating to create a magical and sublime sunset.





The dynamic perspective is placed from above to enhance the thrill felt by the characters.



Water color on paper (20,5 x 10 cm)



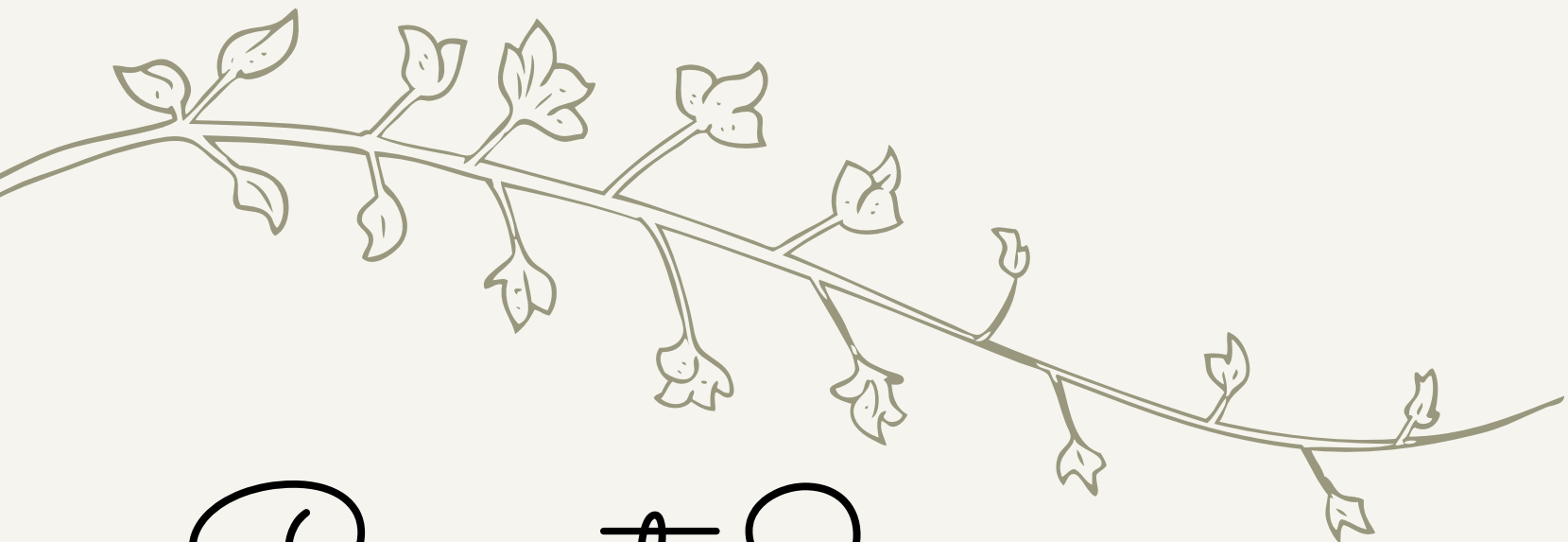
Water color on paper
(20,5 x 10 cm)



Water color on paper
(20,5 x 10 cm)



Water color on paper
(20,5 x 10 cm)



Project 2. Letters from a cat

A story based on letters sent to a girl named Helen by her
precious cat - Pussy



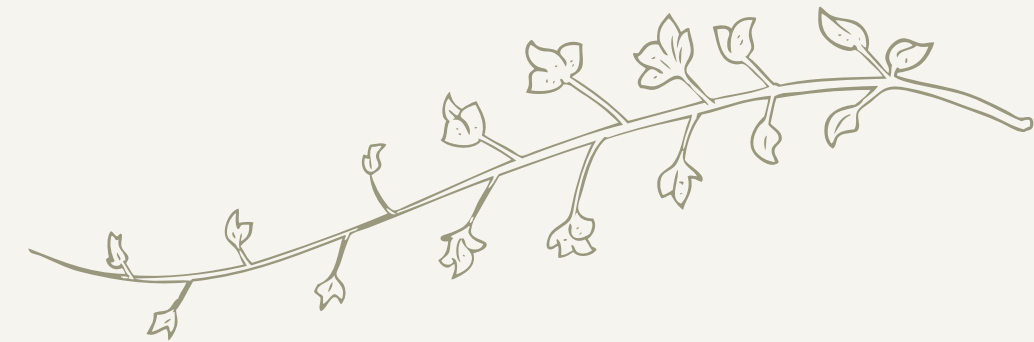
Water color on paper (10 x 10 cm)

Water color on paper (14 x 20 cm)



"I could not love you more than I do. How many good naps I have had in your lap".

The overall tone is coated in a brownish hue to create a vintage look and a sense of nostalgia and reminiscence, as the story was a part of Helen's childhood memory.

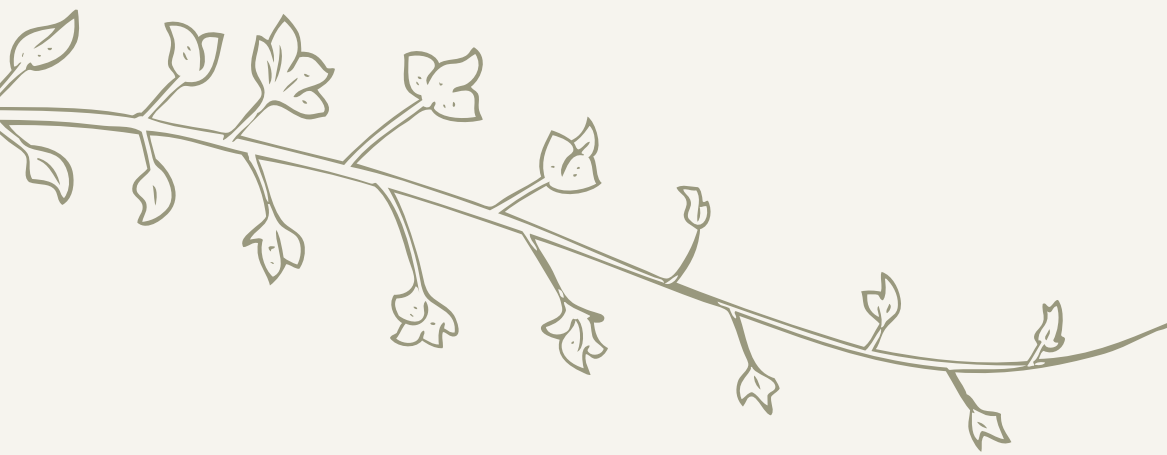




"I felt very unhappy after you drove off yesterday, and did not know what to do with myself. I went into the barn and thought I would take a nap for the hay,..."

The perspective is placed at the level of the cat to enhance the vast surroundings, which amplifies the character's sense of loss and loneliness.

Water color on paper (23 x 14 cm)



Water color on paper (10 x 15 cm)



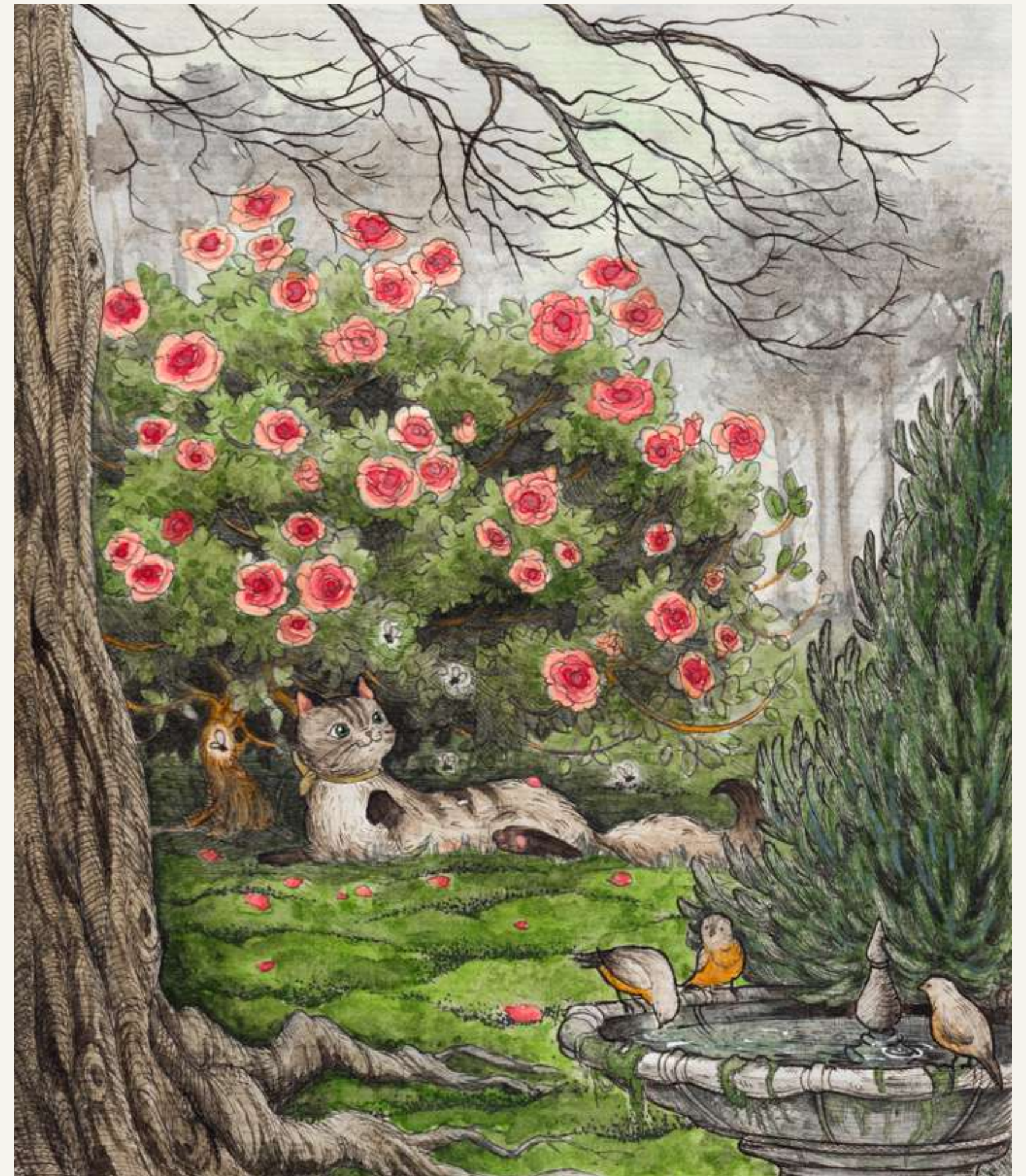
Water color on paper (15 x 15 cm)



Water color on paper (10 x 15 cm)

"...so I went into the garden, and lay down
under the damask rose-bush and caught flies."

Pink roses were painted especially vibrant over
the grayish surroundings, indicating the rose
bush is the character's happy place.



Water color on paper (15 x 17 cm)



Water color on paper (14,5 x 23 cm)

"Judge Dickinson's cat, who is a good, hospitable old soul, in spite of her stupidity, invited me to tea, and asked Cæsar too."

Despite the many activities going on during tea time and the presences of other cats, the main character can be seen sharing a special moment with her favorite new friend.

"Then your grandfather made up a nice bed in the cradle, and laid me down in it, all rolled up as I was in your petticoat."

A lot of curtains in pillowy shape were added to create a sense of softness and fluffiness to the scene. The atmosphere is also coated in pastel yellow hue to describe a refreshing and cozy morning.



Water color on paper (14,5 x 23 cm)



Oil pastel on paper (17 x 19 cm)



Lighting variations on different layers of leaves

03 Study





Oil pastel on paper (19 x 25 cm)

Golden hour lighting on fur



Oil pastel on paper (34,5 x 25 cm)

A study on different shades of green





The end.

THANK YOU