



Architecture



Urban Design



Illustration

Webiste:
www.justzhm.com

Email:
just.zhm@gmail.com

Mobile:
+961 551631

Instagram:
@justZHM

BIOGRAPHY

My name is Zarifi Haidar Marín and I am a Venezuelan-born, Lebanon-based self-taught illustrator.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Architectural Engineering (2005), a Master's degree in Urban Design (2016), and more than 15 years of practical experience in these fields.

Being passionate about both, the arts and the built environment, these professions seemed like perfect career choices. Yet, something kept feeling missing until I went back to doodling and drawing.

At first, drawing was a way of expressing my frustrations, worries, and even my anxieties (which can be many when you live in a country as complex as Lebanon). I drew almost every day, everywhere and anywhere; and, thanks to this practice, I learned to see the world in colors. Today, I do not only try to find the bright side of things, but I invent it if I cannot find it and I encourage others to do the same.

Despite my untraditional path, I have achieved recognition as both an artist and an award winning children's book illustrator. I am still learning and drawing everyday but this practice has become my work...a work that I do with a huge smile and a full heart.



What do I want to say with my art?

Smile. Cry. Celebrate your emotions and humanity.
Contemplate nature, the little miracles and the tiniest of details.

Treasure the genuine.

Find beauty wherever you are.

RESUME

EDUCATION

- 2016 **Master of Urban Design** (Terminal Degree)
American University of Beirut, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2005 **Bachelor of Sciences in Architectural Engineering**
Beirut Arab University, faculty of Architectural Engineering | Beirut, Lebanon.

ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

- 2022 **"My trip to Jordan"** (Kitabi by Joozoori - Series of My Trips in Arab Countries). Illustrations for a picturebook written by Samar Mahfouz Barraaj, published by Noura Publishing | Dubai, UAE.
- 2022 **"My trip to Lebanon"** (Kitabi by Joozoori - Series of My Trips in Arab Countries). Illustrations for a picturebook written by Samar Mahfouz Barraaj, published by Noura Publishing | Dubai, UAE.
- 2017 **"الكائن العجيب"** (The Strange Creature). Illustrations for a picturebook written by Sana Chibani, published by Asala Publishers | Beirut, Lebanon. Published in Turkish by EDAM (2020).
- 2013 **"عندما تغضب"** (When You Get Angry). Illustrations for a picturebook written by Dunyazad al-Saadi, published by Asala Publishers | Beirut, Lebanon. Published in Turkish by EDAM (2016).
- 2011 **"ما أحلى النوم"** (How Good is to Sleep). Illustrations for a picturebook written by Samar Mahfouz Barraaj, published by Asala Publishers | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2010 **"أقرأ مع أحرفي"** (Reading with My Arabic Letters). Illustrations for a series of 15 booklets written by Maha Mousa, published by Asala Publishers | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2009 **"ماذا أفعل"** (What Shall I Do?). Illustrations for a series of 4 booklets written by Sana Chibani, published by Asala Publishers | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2009 **"سلسلة ظريفة"** (Zarifa Series). Illustrations for a series of 8 booklets written by Fatima Sharafeddine, published by Asala Publishers | Beirut, Lebanon.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 **"Araborama: Once upon a time... the Arab revolutions"**
A book by Institut du Monde | Arabe, France.
- 2020 **"They Draw and Travel: 100 Illustrated Maps of Very Special Places"**
A Book by Nate Padavick | USA & Japan.
- 2020 **"The Lebanese Revolution...A Series by Zarifi Haidar Marin"**
The JFA (Justice for All) journal | UK.

AWARDS

- 2015 **Kitabi Prize for Arabic Children Literature.**
Honor list for "عندما تغضب" (When You Get Angry).
- 2014 **International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).**
Honor list for "ما أحلى النوم" (How Good is to Sleep).
- 2013 **Etisalat Award for Arabic's Children Literature.**
Best Production for "عندما تغضب" (When You Get Angry).

EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 **"ArtLeb"**
Online gallery by Dar al Kalima University College of Arts and Culture | Bethlehem, Palestine.
- 2021 **6th Mahmoud Kahil Award 2020-21**
Virtual exhibition | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2020 **"October 2019 ,17"**
Collective exhibition at Galerie Janine Rubeiz | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2019 **5th Mahmoud Kahil Award 2018-19**
Collective exhibition at Beit Beirut Museum and Urban Cultural Center | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2018 **"Talent Unbound"**
Collective exhibition at Ziko Haouse | Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2016 **"Beirut Is"**
Collective exhibition at Glorietta Gallery | Beirut, Lebanon.

FEATURES

- 2020 **"La pandémie du coronavirus, en huit illustrations réussies"**
L'Orient-le Jour | Lebanon.
- 2019 **"La « révolution » libanaise en six illustrations chocs"**
L'Orient-le Jour | Lebanon.
- 2019 **"لحظات «مؤثرة» للتظاهرات اللبنانية «تخلدها» تصاميم ملهمة** (Touching moments of the Lebanese demonstrations immortalized by inspiring designs)
CNN Arabic | UAE.
- 2019 **"How the story of the Lebanese protests is being told through art"**
The National | UAE.
- 2019 **"لبنان أعاد لي أملاً فقدته في فنزويلا"** (Lebanon brought back the hope I had lost in Venezuela)
Interview by BBC Arabic | UK.
- 2017 **"The Art of Life and Imagination: Talented Lebanese Illustrators to Follow on Instagram"**
ArabAd Magazine | Lebanon.
- 2015 **"Doodling in Beirut with Architect and Urban Designer @justZHM"**
Interview by Instagram | USA.
- 2015 **"Zari Haidar Marin: Breakthrough on the Social Lane"**
Outlook Magazine | Lebanon.
- 2015 **"One-on-One with ZarifiHaidar Marin"**
Interview by Ink Magazine | Pakistan.
- 2015 **"14 Fantastic Female Artists to Follow On Instagram"**
Buzzfeed | USA.
- 2013 **"حضور لبناني مميز في معرض الشارقة الدولي للكتاب"** (Distinguished Lebanese presence at the Sharjah International Book Fair)
National News Agency | Lebanon.

WORK SAMPLES

PERSONAL WORK

1

A HANDFUL OF THOUGHTS IN MONOCHROME

Hand-drawings on A6 sketchbooks.

2

A HANDFUL OF THOUGHTS IN COLOR

Hand-drawings on A6 sketchbooks.

3

A HANDFUL OF THOUGHTS ON THOUGHTS

Mixed media on various formats.

4

THE CREATURES I SEE

Digital drawings on photographs.

5

THE CITY THROUGH MY PEN

Hand-drawn and digital illustrations on various formats.

6

THE PEOPLE, WHAT THEY DO, & WHAT THEY CHERISH

Hand-drawn and digital illustrations on various formats.

PUBLISHED WORK

7

SPACE REAPPROPRIATION

Book contribution.

Published by Seuil / Institut du monde arabe (IMA). Paris, 2021.

8

RAS BEIRUT ILLUSTRATED MAP

Book contribution.

Published by They Draw and Travel (TDT). USA, 2020.

9

THE STRANGE CREATURE | TUHAF YARATIK ("الكائن العجيب")

Illustrated book.

Published by Asala Publishers. Beirut, 2017 | EDAM. Istanbul, 2020.

10

MY TRIP TO JORDAN

Illustrated book.

Published by Noura Publishing. Dubai, 2022.

11

MY TRIP TO LEBANON

Illustrated book.

Published by Noura Publishing. Dubai, 2022.

12

WHEN YOU GET ANGRY | ÖFKELENDİĞİNDE (“عندما تغضب”)

Illustrated book.

Published by Asala Publishers. Beirut, 2015 | EDAM. Istanbul, 2016.

13

HOW GOOD IS TO SLEEP (“ما أحلى النوم”)

Illustrated book.

Published by Asala Publishers. Beirut, 2011.

A HANDFUL OF THOUGHTS IN MONOCHROME

Hand-drawings on A6 sketchbooks.

In the beginning there was only darkness, a white sheet of paper and a black ink fine-liner...

My first drawings were mainly means to detach and let go. The emotions depicted and my reliance on technical drawing tools and techniques

of the architect in me, made the spreads of my first sketchbooks dark and monochromatic.

"A Handful of Thoughts in Monochrome" is a series showcasing a handful of sketches originating from these dark and monochromatic beginnings.





Ink on paper, 2016



Ink on paper, 2016



Ink on paper, 2016



Ink on paper, 2016

A HANDFUL OF THOUGHTS IN COLOR

Hand-drawings on A6 sketchbooks.

"Let there be color," and there was color...

With time, I learned to see the world in colors and those colors were projected on my sketchbook pages.

I continue doodling and drawing. Although any surface on which I can capture my emotions and thoughts is a valid canvas; sketchbooks have

become increasingly important to me.

Sketchbooks are like portable studios I carry with me all the time. I put several hours into each spread and most of these become an extension to my published work.

"A Handful of Thoughts in Color" is a series showcasing sketches through which beauty, humor and cheerfulness are underlying themes.



Ink, markers and colored pencils on paper, 2018



Colored pencil on paper, 2019



Ink, markers and colored pencils on paper, 2017



Ink, markers and colored pencils on paper, 2018



Ink, markers and colored pencils on paper, 2018

A HANDFUL OF THOUGHTS ON THOUGHT

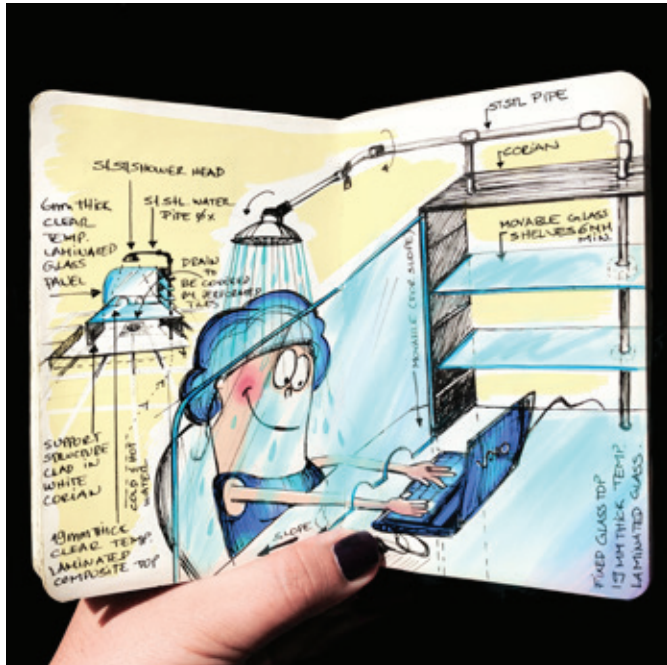
Mixed media on various formats.

What does it sound like inside my head? What can I do to keep creative ideas coming? How do I deal with highly toxic thoughts and people? How can I give my exhausted brain a way deserved break? Why is it so difficult to focus on what really matters?

Many of this album's sketches are created as part

of my continuous personal exploration of thoughts, feelings, and concerns. Acknowledging and expressing one's own demons and pains is part of our healing and personal growth journey. Envisioning these demons as cute and funny creatures makes facing and fighting them a much easier, enjoyable process!





Ink on paper and digital coloring, 2015



Ink, markers and colored pencils on paper, 2016



Acrylic mural, 2010 (Hamra Street, Beirut)

* Translation: "Ministry of health warns: thinking is hazardous for your health"



Ink, markers and colored pencils on paper, 2016

THE CREATURES I SEE

Digital drawings on photographs.

This series is the outcome of a mix of Pareidolia and imagination. Sometimes, I see faces and characters in everyday objects and places; other times, I invent them.

Our day-to-day existence can become tedious and distressing: always the same walk to work,

faces, views, meals, and more. Using my mobile phone to brighten my everyday reality through adding imaginary monsters and fun friends I wish were there was game-changing.

Average piece size: 15cm x 15cm



Digital drawing (ipad) on photograph, 2017



Digital drawing (iphone) on photograph, 2016



Digital drawing (iphone) on photograph, 2016



Digital drawing (ipad) on photograph, 2017



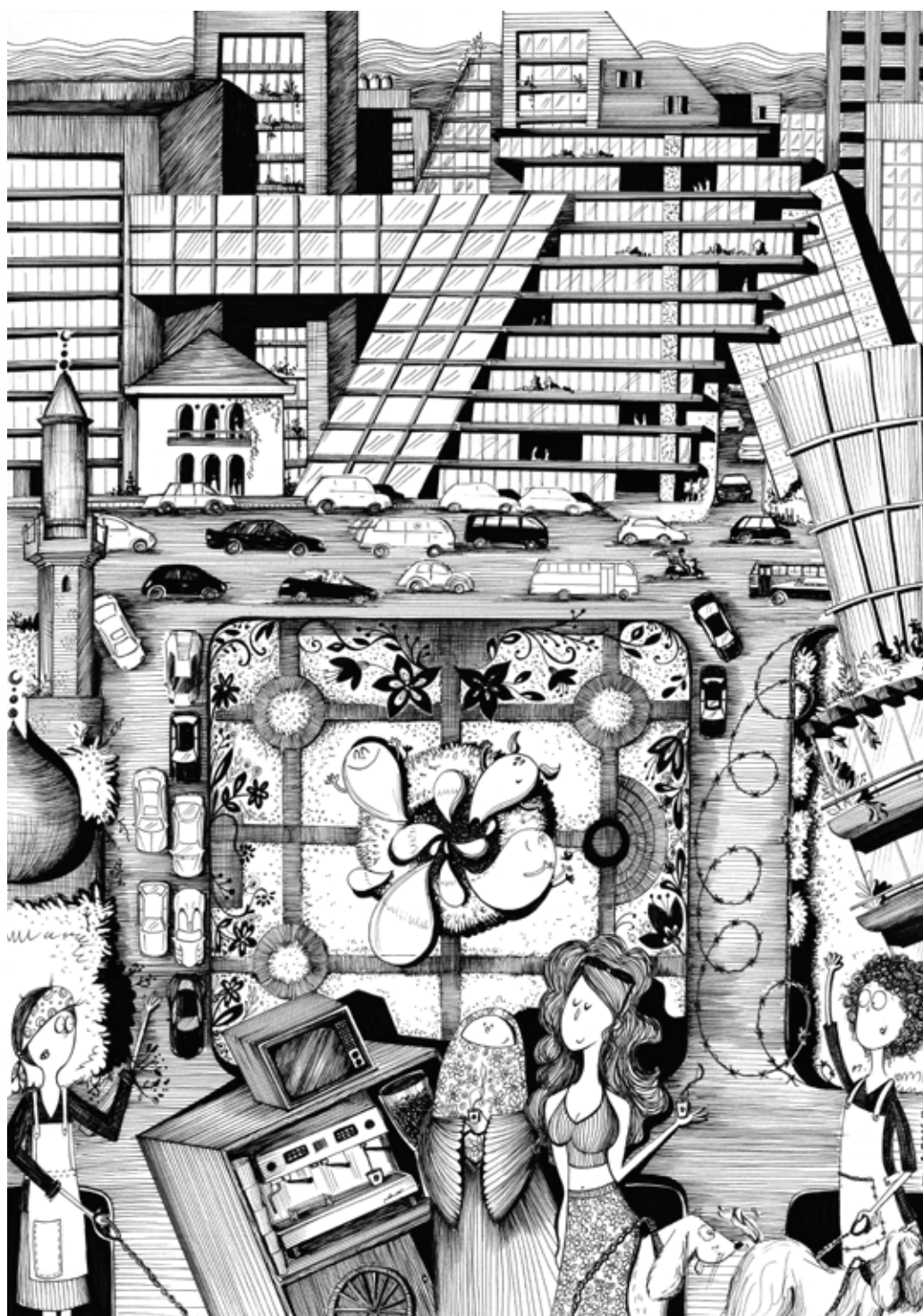
Digital drawing (iphone) on photograph, 2016

THE CITY THROUGH MY PEN

Hand-drawn and digital illustrations on various formats.

"The city, however, does not tell its past, but contains it like the lines of a hand, written in the corners of the streets, the gratings of the windows, the banisters of the steps, the antennae of the lightning roads, the poles of the flags, every segment marked in turn with scratches, indentations, scrolls." - Italo Calvino

One of the things I enjoy the most is walking around the city, observing and capturing such details and deciphering the stories they have to tell. The stories I find sometimes ask to be represented as they are. Other times, they prefer to be muses; to inspire new stories filled with brighter colors and happier endings.



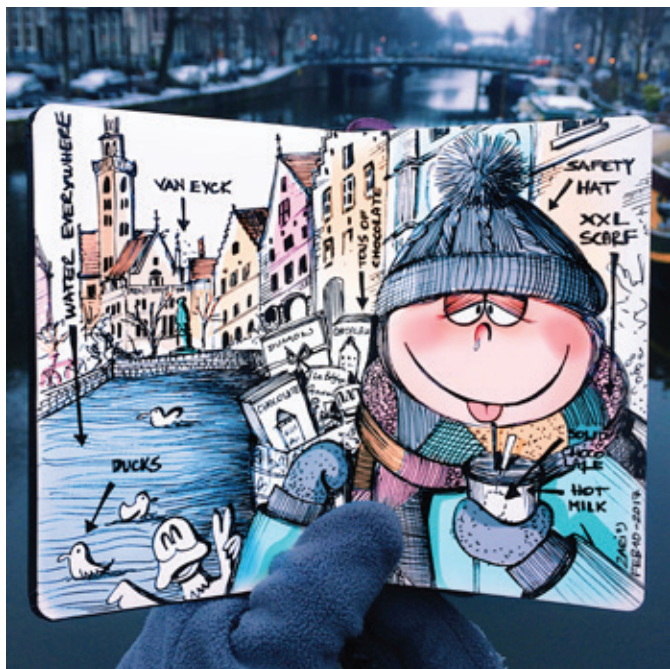
Ink on paper, 2016. 50cm x 70cm



Digital drawing, 2020. 24cm x 30cm



Digital drawing, 2020. 24cm x 30cm



Ink on paper and digital coloring, 2017



Colored pencils on paper, 2019

All my illustrations are personal observations and expressions of what I see, think and feel. People's expressions, the stories they tell and those they try to hide, the things they love, and the traditions they pass from one generation to another are among the things I find most inspiring.

I (respectfully and discretely) observe people wherever I go. Family, friends, strangers, young people, old people, imaginary people, ... Most human beings are muses waiting to be discovered.



Digital drawing, 2020. 24cm x 30cm



Digital portraits, 2018. 20cm x 20cm



Digital drawing, 2021. 30cm x 30cm



Digital drawing, 2020. 30cm x 30cm



Colored pencils on paper, 2019

SPACE REAPPROPRIATION

Book contribution.

Published by Seuil / Institut du monde arabe (IMA) Paris, 2021.

This illustration aims at capturing the citizens' re-appropriation of emblematic public and private spaces during the Lebanese revolution. It was included in the 2nd edition of "Araborama: Once upon a time... the Arab revolutions", a book published by the Arab World Institute (IMA) and

Seuil on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Arab revolutions to explore these revolutions' long history and words from multiple points of view.

ISBN: 2021469980



Digital illustration, 20cm x 27cm

RAS BEIRUT ILLUSTRATED MAP

Book contribution.

Published by They Draw and Travel (TDT), USA, 2020.

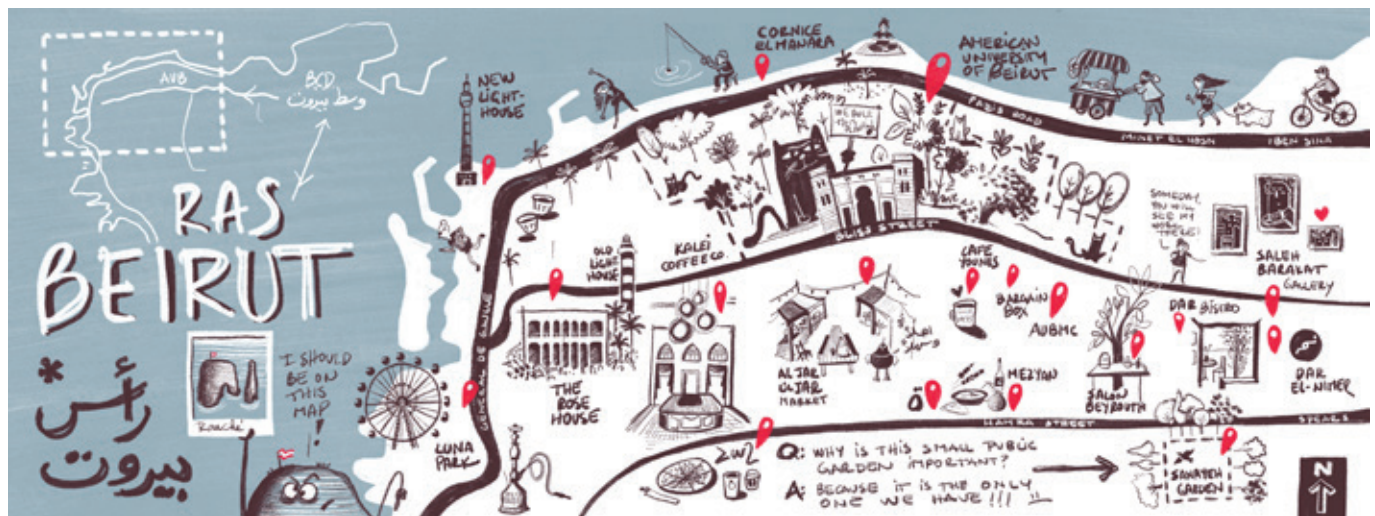
This map was an entry for the "They Draw and Travel: Mapping Special Places" contest (2019). It was then shortlisted and included in the "They Draw and Travel: 100 Illustrated Maps of Very Special Places" published by TDT in February 2020.

"This place is special to me because it is where I studied and now spend most of my free time. We do not have many green or open spaces in Beirut but the American University neighborhood has it all: a botanical garden –which is also a cat haven,

heritage buildings, an archeological museum, art galleries, excellent restaurants and coffee shops, a weekly farmers' market and, last but not least, the seaside cornice – a beautiful promenade that leads to the iconic Rauche rocks site. One never gets bored in this area, never!"

Link to online map:

<https://strolly.com/viewer/1577388419/>
ISBN: 8612014133-979



Digital illustration, 42cm x 16cm

MY TRIP TO JORDAN

Illustrated book.

Published by Noura Publishing. Dubai, 2022.

"My Trip to Jordan" is part of "Kitabi", a series of bilingual personalized children's books about Arab heritage. Each book in the series features a magical storyline that takes its readers on a unique adventure while giving them space to get to know their country, its beauty, stories and significance.

The books aim to inspire children and their families to feel closer and more connected to their Arab roots.

Writer: Samar Mahfouz Barraj
www.joozoori.com



Book spread. Digital work, 56cm x 23cm



Book spread. Digital work, 56cm x 23cm

MY TRIP TO LEBANON

Illustrated book.

Published by Noura Publishing. Dubai, 2022.

"My Trip to Lebanon" is part of "Kitabi", a series of bilingual personalized children's books about Arab heritage. Each book in the series features a magical storyline that takes its readers on a unique adventure while giving them space to get to know their country, its beauty, stories and significance.

The books aim to inspire children and their families to feel closer and more connected to their Arab roots.

Writer: Samar Mahfouz Barraj
www.joozoori.com



Book spread. Digital work, 56cm x 23cm



Book spread. Digital work, 56cm x 23cm

"A spaceship got closer to Earth. It roomed around all the countries. It went North and South, and landed in our playground. A strange creature got out the space ship, He didn't look like human. He was short and covered with straight fur. We taught him how to take a bath with a soap and sponge. He dressed like humans and put on clean socks..."

Writer: Sana Shabbani.

ISBN: 9789953951041



Book spread. Colored pencils and markers on paper, 48cm x 24cm

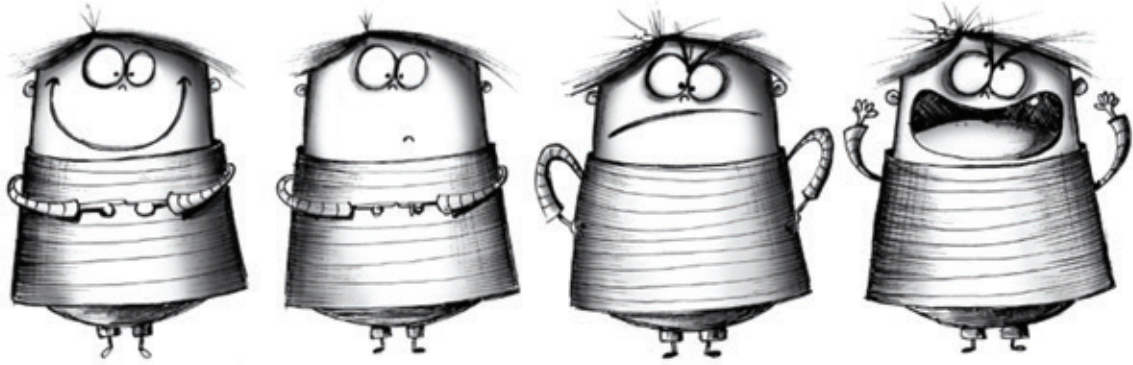


Book spread. Colored pencils and markers on paper, 48cm x 24cm

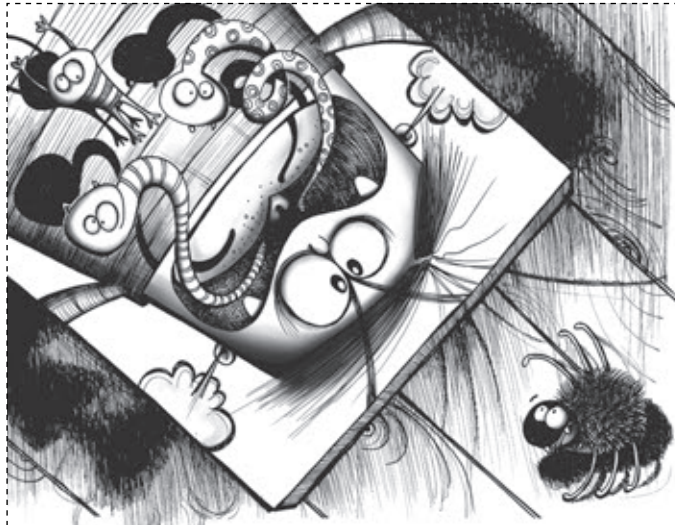
"Have you ever felt so angry that you wished you could break everything around you? Have you looked at the mirror and found that rage has turned you into a monster? If that is the case, welcome to the club and just listen to my story" What do you look like when you are angry?

"Best Production" Etisalat Award for Arabic's Children Literature in 2013.

Writer: Duniyazad al-Saadi.
ISBN: 9786051691558



Book endpaper. Ink on paper, 48cm x 24cm



بالتأكيد فعلت! لكيتك لم تتذكر أن تنظر إلى وجهك في المرآة وتري نفسك كيف تبدو كالوحش! لذلك انضم إلي با صديقي في «نادي الغاضبين» بعد أن نقرأ جكايتي

هل غضبت يوماً وشعرت أنك مظلوم ولم يسمح لك أحد بالدفاع عن نفسك؟
أو حرمت من شيء نتيجة لذلك معاقب؟ أو ربما تلقيت أمراً لم ينجبك لكن
عليك تنفيذه؟
هل تمنيت أن تكبر شيئاً أمانك أو كسرتة لذلك غاضب؟
أو ربما صرخت أحداً أو غضضت يداك وشددت شعرك!



Book spread. Ink on paper, 48cm x 24cm

HOW GOOD IS TO SLEEP ("ما أحلى النوم")

Illustrated book.

Published by Asala Publishers. Beirut, 2011.

"Hisham loves to sleep, that is why he is always late to school. But when he is faced with the obligation to wake up by himself, he gets an ingenious idea; do you know what it is?"

International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) honor list, 2014.

Writer: Samar Mahfouz Barraj

ISBN: 9786144024119



Book spread. Digital work, 48cm x 24cm



Book spread. Digital work, 48cm x 24cm