

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

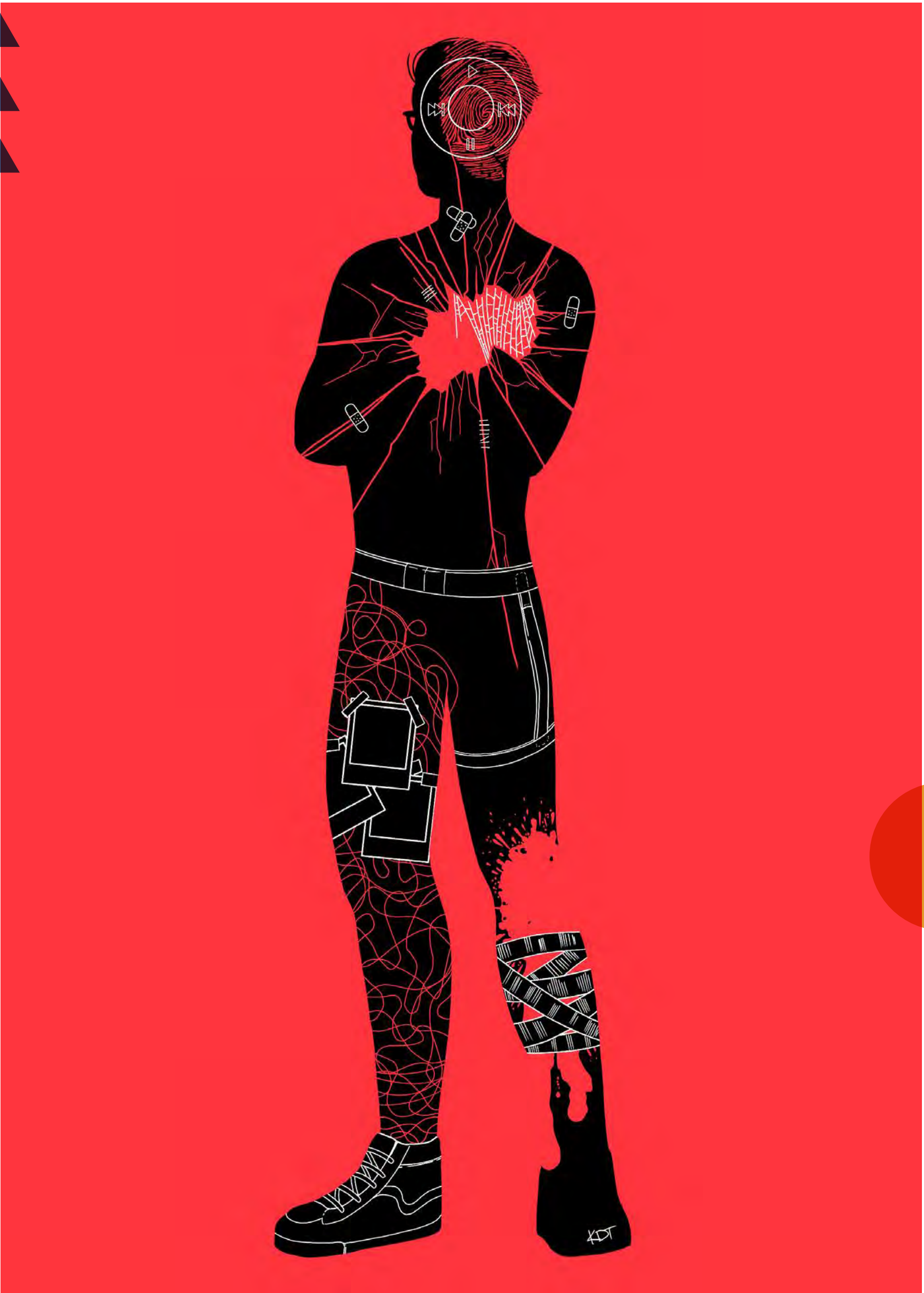
- Adobe Illustrator
● ● ● ● ●
- Adobe Photoshop
● ● ● ● ●
- Adobe InDesign
● ● ● ● ●
- Adobe After Effects
● ● ●
- Procreate
● ● ● ● ●
- Google Workspace
● ● ● ● ●
- Microsoft Office
● ● ● ● ●

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
WORKING WITH BUSINESSES
TO TELL STORIES



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.



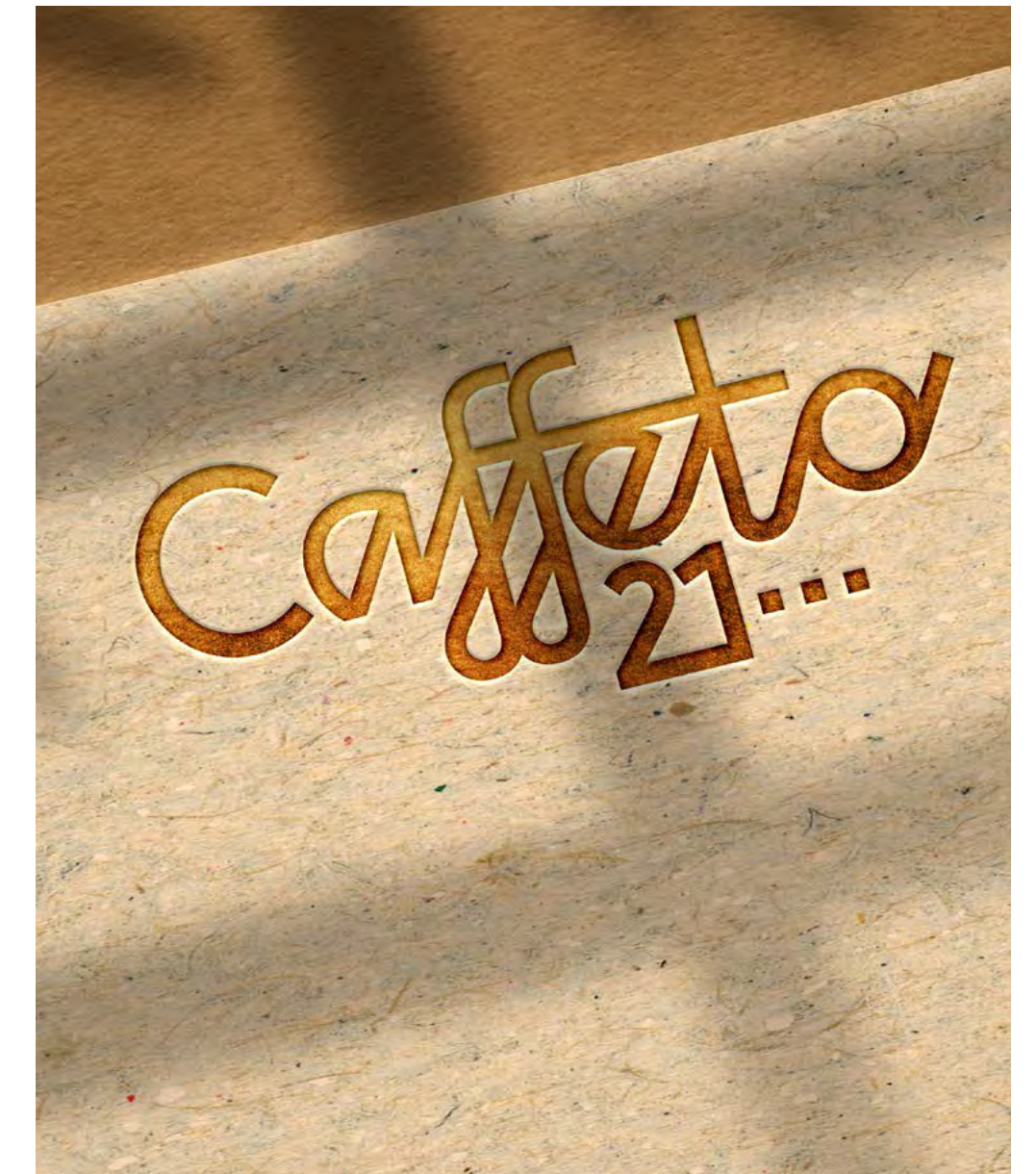
STAFF UNIFORM SHIRTS

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 as most environmentally sustainable products come in tans and warm colors.



BRANDING HONESTY FOR CREDIBILITY

Honest Buds is a start-up company, tackling the challenge of entering one of the most difficult and stigmatized industries: cannabis.

Honest Buds, an ancillary tech company, was started to assist cannabis shop and growers better categorize their products and open up the communication high-way between the growers to the stores to their consumers. A large issue in the cannabis industry is the organization in every step from the growers to the consumers because of the systems in place restricting so much of what makes an industry function. In order these wrongs to be righted, their needs to be a better system for organization that is founded on trust and knowledge by the government, consumers, growers, and investors.

CHALLENGES

Simply put: misinformation leading to a lack of trust. Due to past stigma, there are many stereotypes and uninformed opinions that effect the impact the cannabis industry can make in the lives of many.

The struggle Honest Buds faced is finding investors by proving their own legitimacy and credibility as a business more than blunts.

SOLUTIONS

Playing into the corporate mindset of sleek visuals, clean looks, and honesty, without compromising the morals and values of Honest Buds was the tactic used to break down the stigma around the cannabis industry.

By opening the minds of old-skool investors, Honest Buds found their seat at the table to bring change to the current state of the cannabis world.



Software Loading Screen



Staff Hoodie Uniform



Business cards



Investor Gifts

AND MORE
BOLD, BRIGHT, ALIVE



ILLUSTRATION
THE WORLD THROUGH
MY EYES

THE BOY

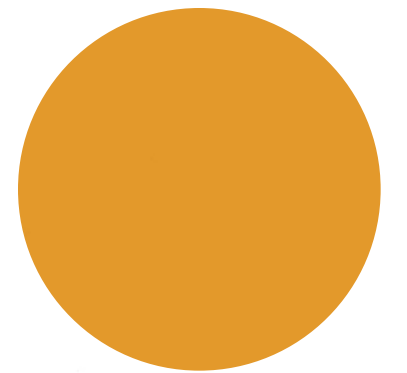
NOV. 2024

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.



ALIVE

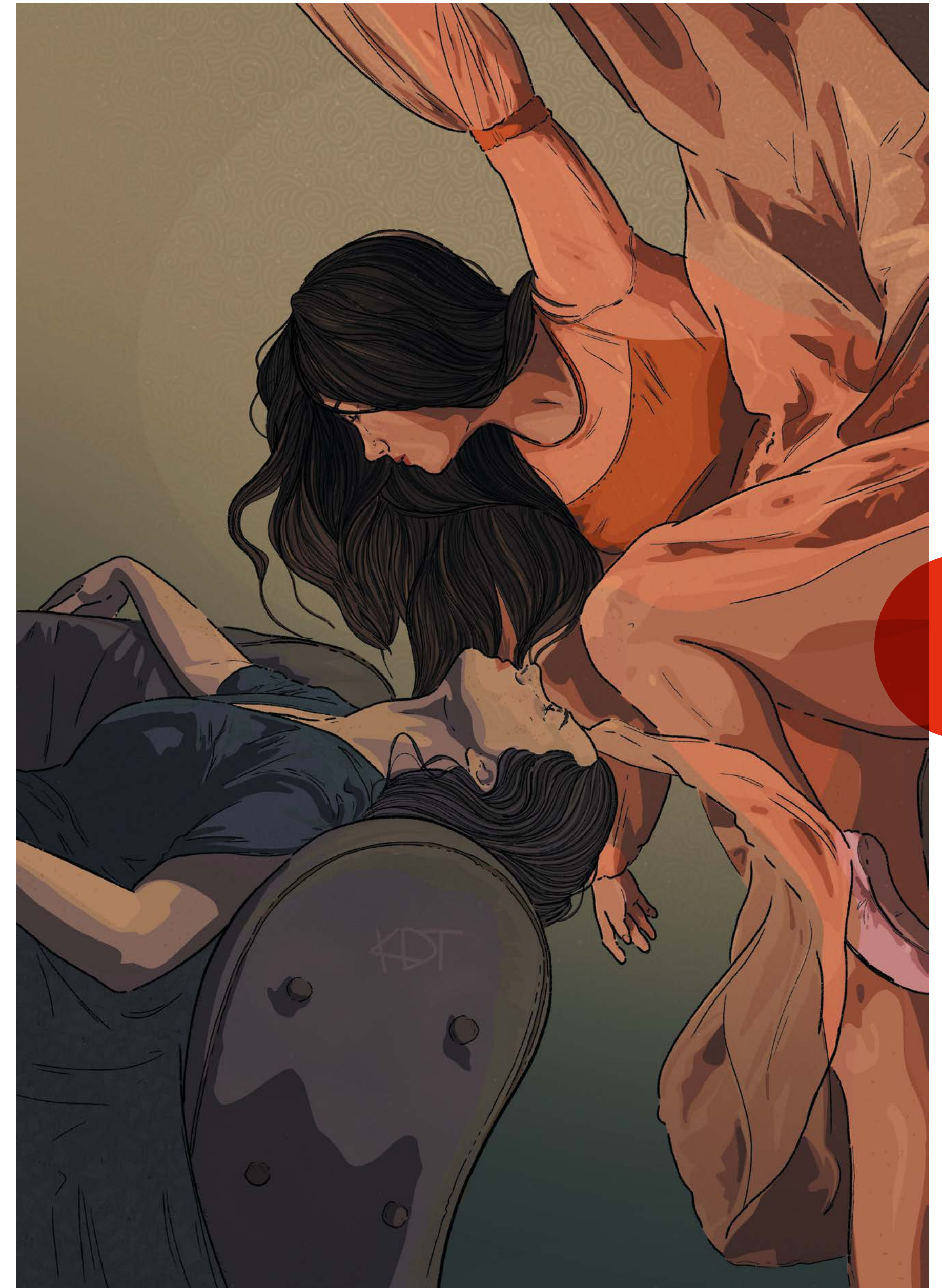
OCT. 2023

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.



AND MORE

**BEHIND THE COMPOSED AND CONTROLLED
HID THE RAW HUMANITY**



CONTACT

LET'S CREATE STORIES

+1 (425) 382 - 1853

kayla50torres@gmail.com

kdorres.com

@theartistwiththetremor

LinkedIn

