

Interview Q & A

1. Where are you from and what's something you like about it?
 - South Carolina is a state with a sweeping range of landscapes and ecology. Coastal wetlands are where Venus flytraps are from, and the state also includes a part of the Appalachian trail.
2. What do you usually do for fun or to relax?
 - I love to read, scifi is the current genre I'm reading a lot of.
3. Do you have any hobbies you're really into right now?
 - Right now I'm very into gardening... last year was a bust. This year we have a spreadsheet for planting, harvesting, and companion planting.
4. How did you end up doing what you do these days?
 - I was lucky! College classes gave me a skill set that was not directly applicable to most jobs. Those skills were a great but indirect way to get into a niche field. I was lucky to work at a non-profit and learn from the ground up.
5. What's something you're proud of accomplishing so far?
 - I've consistently read 50 books a year for 7 years (since kindle started tracking). I am proud that I have pulled my passive reading into a self improvement area by reading more literature (a personal dislike).
6. Is there something you're currently working towards or trying to improve at?
 - I'm currently working to get better at reading tarot cards. They are a very interesting way of reframing questions, and setting up answers that you haven't considered. It's very meditative.
7. What's a skill or hobby you'd love to pick up in the future?
 - I would really love to learn taxidermy. There is beauty in trying to capture life with methods of preservation, fixation, and a static statue in dead materials. It's also an interesting dichotomy. The *honest* flip side includes taxidermy fails and comical social commentary via an unusual media.
8. What motivates you when you're working toward a goal?
 - I am motivated by the adage "this too shall pass" and a story of a lobster's growth. Lobsters have to get uncomfortable enough growing inside their shell until they molt in order to be comfortable in their own skin again. Cumulatively: You savour the moments that are joyful, and you look at difficulties as temporary - and necessary to grow.

9. What's a challenge you've faced that taught you something useful?
 - I've tried multiple recipes to make gluten free chicken and dumplings. The chicken and stock base are great. The gluten free dumplings? A disappointment at *best*. I'm still searching for ideas, maybe I haven't hit on it yet - but sometimes the answer just isn't there yet. Keep trying.
10. What's something people might be surprised to learn about you?
 - I have one tattoo, 10 cartilage piercings, and I'm afraid of needles. As a child, I would get a flu shot and develop a limp. As an adult I still feel the need to limp, but I settle on not looking during the process.

250-ish word bio

Maple comes from the East Coast where she enjoys the local landscape (coastal wetlands) and flora. This interest in flora also extends into their fairly new hobby of gardening. She ran into some difficulties with it last year but is now coming at it more prepared with plans for planting, harvesting and companion planting (the pairing of 2 different plant types which when grown together, mutually benefit).

In her down time she enjoys reading and has recently taken a shine to Sci-Fi as a genre. This leads to one of their prouder personal achievements in that she has been able to read 50 books every year for the past 7 years. In doing so, she has been able to read more literature books as a form of self-improvement even though literature is not quite their cup of tea.

On a professional level, she has been working as a genetics lab tech for more than a few years now and feels that the variety of college courses she took earlier on gave her the skills required to succeed in a niche field. She was also fortunate enough to start their career at a non-profit organization which allowed her to learn from the ground up.

She does have a wide array of interests though, and also finds joy in tarot card reading to help them rephrase life questions and ponder the outcome in a meditative fashion. She would love to learn how to practice taxidermy. Specifically finding a form of beauty in the manipulation of dead materials to try and recapture life. Noting that while it is a difficult hobby to start out, failures can be quite comical.

Speaking to other life and its difficulties, she finds motivation from the adage, "this too shall pass", and the means in which lobsters grow to tremendous size. The 2 being related as a lobster can only grow larger from feeling uncomfortable in their carapace, forcing them to molt to allow for further growth. She finds difficulties should be seen as temporary and as an avenue for growth and self improvement. Speaking of difficulties, one that has challenged her is the goal of finding a way to make gluten free chicken and dumplings, the dumplings being the focal problem. Though she has tried many ingredients, success eludes her and she will continue to hammer away at this goal.

Finally, on a more comical note, a bit of curious information. Though she has one tattoo, and 10 cartilage piercings, she is very afraid of needles. In her youth, she would develop a limp after receiving a flu shot. As an adult, this need/inclination to limp persists though she has settled for simply looking away to keep the limp at bay.

Dan Rojas
08-Feb-2026
Mod 5.2

Pictures

*might not use all these but these are a mix of provided and found that I am considering.



Sarah Mathilda Stewart
Charleston, SC

Text 256844 to 843-647-6780 to vote for this piece to win a People's Choice Award!

Five of Cups, Rattlesnakes and Rainbows Botanical Tarot
Acrylic on birch wood
2-D, 24" x 18"
\$2,500

This is one of 78 botanical tarot cards that will be published in 2022 as a full deck. The Five of cups card is a water element and astrologically is Mars in Scorpio. It is about building a bridge to the other side of deep disappointment and the wisdom that comes from this transformative experience. I employ the help of flower essences to usher the querent through. You will find Jewelweed, Lily, Wild Rose, Goldenrod, Wild Oat and Ladies Mantle essences here as allies to aid one in the experience. Jewelweed will help to allow your emotional capacity to broaden so that you can hold disappointment without being overwhelmed. Lily balances the masculine and feminine energies. Wild Rose allows us to locate our sense of inspiration and opens the heart. Goldenrod provides strength and an opening of the solar plexus. Wild Oat is here to assist in locating our life's path and Ladies Mantle offers stability and an ability to hold the water (emotion) that is flowing through at this moment.



Amanda Kelly
Roanoke, VA

Text 256284 to 843-647-6780 to vote for this piece to win a People's Choice Award!

You Can't Tow a Uhaul to the Grave
1:18th scale miniature sculpture
3-D, 4.5" x 4.5" x 13"
NFS

The relationship between mortality and materiality depicted in "You Can't Tow a Uhaul to the Grave" is represented by the contrast between a coffin and a U-Haul trailer. This juxtaposition is a powerful metaphor for the inevitable separation between humans and their earthly possessions upon death. However, objects are not merely static but active components of our personal and collective narratives. Objects carry memories and serve as historical conduits for the past. This work invites viewers to contemplate their attachment to belongings and reconsider the actual value of the objects we possess.

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Style Guide

Personality

- Voice: First Person
- Do:
 - Clear
 - Concise
 - Simple
 - True to the person
- Avoid:
 - Long paragraphs
 - Busy layout
 - Crowding photos

Colors Palette

- Dim Gray - 726e75
- Rosy Granite - 948b89
- Rosy Taupe - b6a39e
- Dry Sage - d0d1ac
- Beige - dde0bd
- Black - 000000
- White - FFFFFF

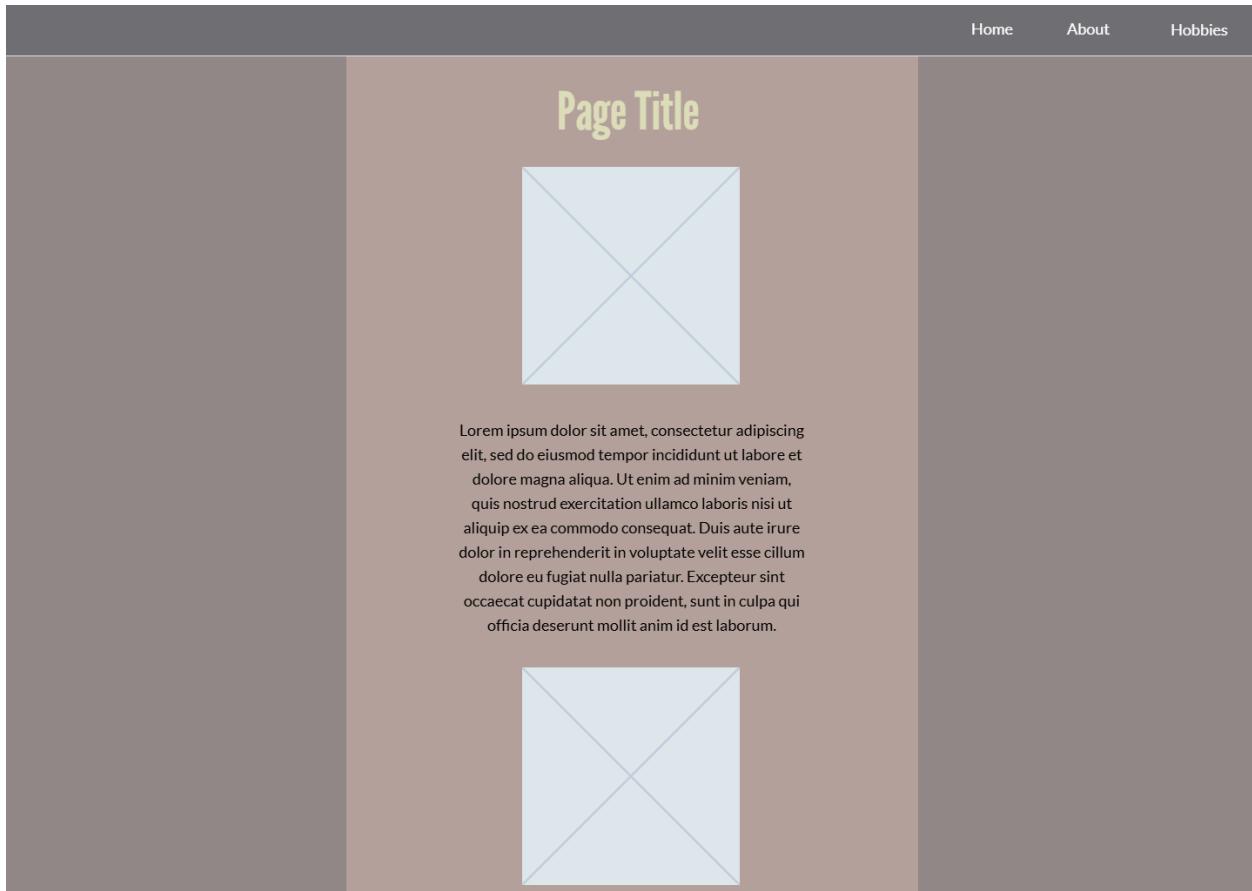
Typography

- Nav Bar
 - Font: Inter
 - Weight: Bold
 - Color: white
- Titles
 - Font: Poppins
 - Weight: Bold
 - Color: Beige
- Body text
 - Font Arial
 - Weight: Normal
 - Color: Black
- Links
 - Underline on hover

Layout

- Page Background:
 - Thematically appropriate image behind center column and text
- Text Background:
 - Central column
 - Solid color
- Titles:
 - H1 element
 - Center aligned
- Sub-titles:
 - H2 element
 - Center aligned
- Body text:
 - P element
 - Center aligned
- Images
 - Figure element
 - Figcaption element for description of image
 - Center aligned
- Nav Bar
 - Remains visible at all times

Wireframe



- Colors will change depending on the specific page but overall layout will remain consistent.
- The wireframe tool I used (Marvel) did not have a good selection of fonts so my choices are not reflected here, though they are listed in the style guide.