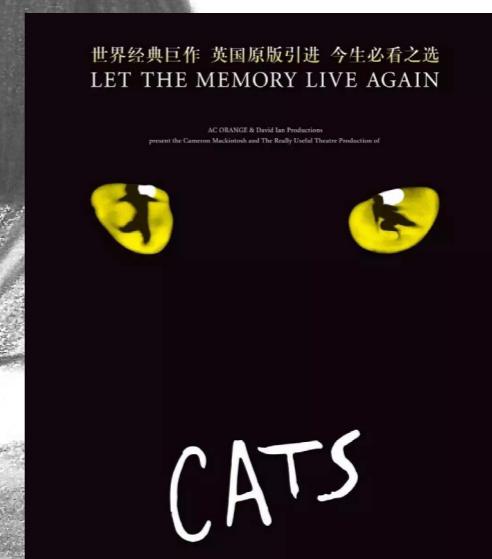
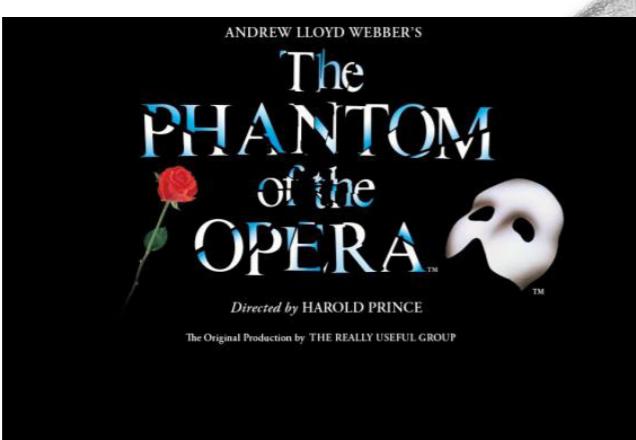
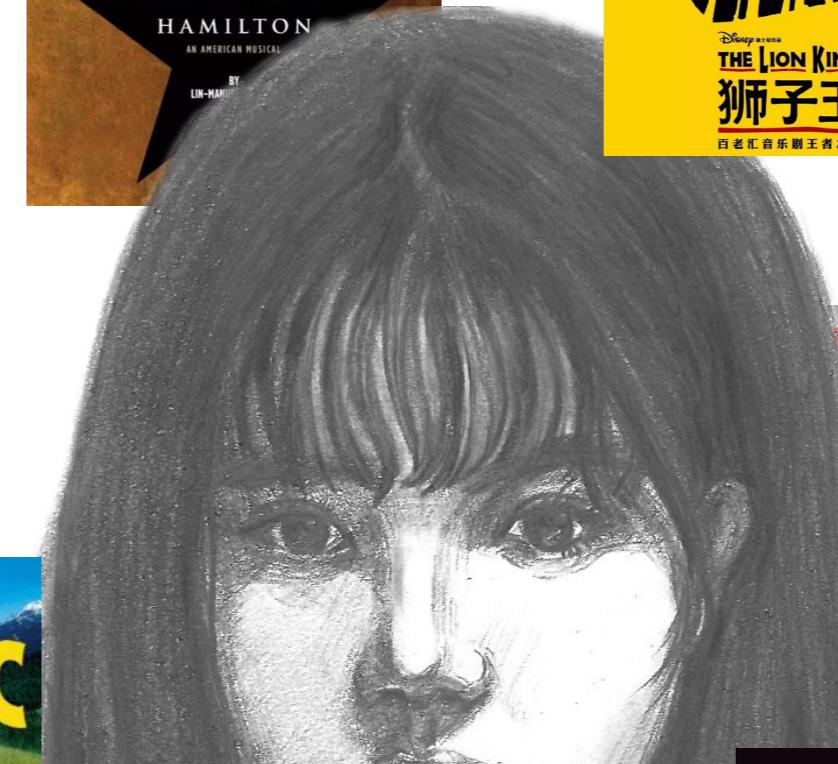
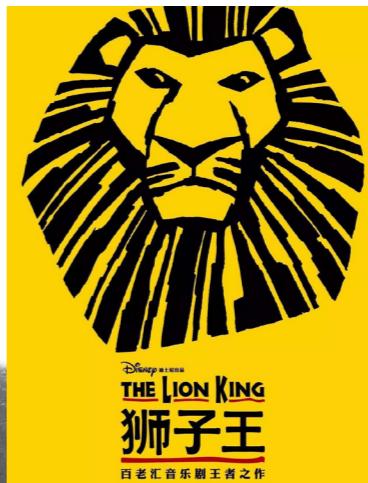
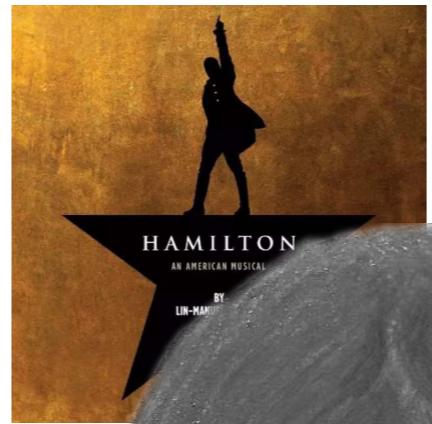
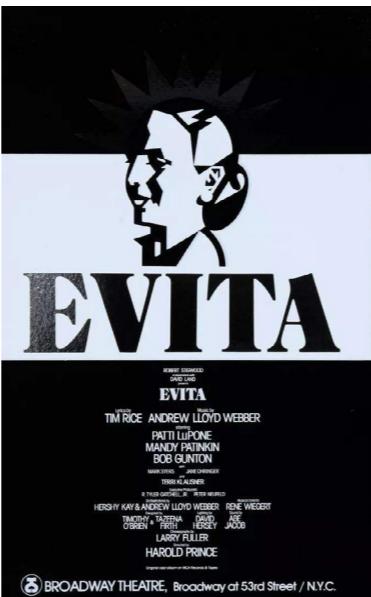
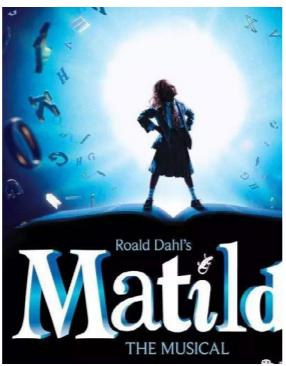


# PROTFOLIO

Mengyuan Zhu



*Self-portrait*

**Medium:** Pencil

**Size:** 210\*297mm

# **Blue Wave Silk Road**

## **Illustration**

My hometown is Beihai of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Although I have been studying in Shanghai for a long time, and embracing the metropolitanism in my current life, I have always been affectionate toward my hometown. Beihai was the starting point of the "Silk Road" in ancient times. The prosperous ports of Beihai not only brought in fortunes but also rich cultures.

The historical dance drama "Beihai Silk Road" is representative of the city. The whole play is based on the history of the Maritime Silk Road, during the Han Dynasty, more than 2,000 years ago. The love story between Dapu and Aban is mainline, showing the ancient Chinese Maritime Silk Road culture as well as Southeast Asian folk customs.

***The wedding of Dapu and Aban: the main tone is a very solemn and unostentatious earth red. The newlyweds stared at each other on the green auspicious clouds.***

**Medium:** Acrylic paint  
**Size:** 210\*297mm  
**Date Completed:** 2020





**Medium:** Acrylic paint

**Size:** 210\*297mm

**Date Completed:** 2020

*After the wedding, Dapu is commanded to set off for the sea. The boat is filled with tea and other commodities. The auspicious clouds floating in the sky, the wandering dragon, and the mountains and rivers in the distance are all watching the fleet set sail.*



**Medium:** Acrylic paint

**Size:** 210\*297mm

**Date Completed:** 2020

*The fleet encounters a gale and waves, and the brave Dapu rescues the princess of Sri Lanka. The princess wants to marry Dapu, but Dapu's loyalty to his wife is unwavering. The moon on the screen symbolizes his longing for hometown and family.*



**Dapu's determination moves everyone and wins the princess's respect. He successfully sells the cargo and starts his returning trips to Beihai with splendid earning. The picture uses a circular composition, symbolizing the perfect love of the hero and the heroine and the beauty of the new life**

I have admired this work, including its engrossing storyline and magnificent dance, from a young age. So, I recreated these beautiful shots in the form of illustrations and based on the original stage expression. In the style of painting, I borrowed from the color composition and pattern expression of the Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes murals. Most Mogao Grottoes were painted during the heyday of the Tang Dynasty when the powerful family worshipped deep in the mountains. Although this bears little similarity with the "Blue Wave Silk Road" story, they both represent the highlight moments of ancient art and cultural output. Therefore, I think it is thus suitable to draw on the artistic elements of Mogao Grottoes to paint the scene of Blue Wave Silk Road.

**Medium:** Acrylic paint  
**Size:** 210\*297mm  
**Date Completed:** 2020

# Nine-color Deer

## Illustration

The story of the nine-color deer comes from the Dunhuang mural "The Deer King Bensheng" which bears an oriental style. The story conveys the value of "punishing evil and promoting good."



1



2



3



4

**Medium:** Ink pen

**Size:** 210\*297mm

**Date Completed:** 2019

In the beautiful forest lives a deer with an elegant posture and coat of nine colors. One day. Crossing the river, it met a drowning man calling for help. The nine-colored deer immediately rushed to the man's rescue.



5

*After the man was saved, it asked him not to tell the world about its existence.*

**Medium:** Ink pen

**Size:** 210\*297mm

**Date Completed:** 2019



# 6

*The Queen dreamed of a beautiful nine-color deer and wanted to make clothes for herself with the deer's beautiful fur.*

**Medium:** Ink pen

**Size:** 210\*297mm

**Date Completed:** 2019



7

The King searched the country for the nine-colored deer. Allured by the award, the man revealed the secret to the King. When the king led the army to surround the Nine-Colored Deer, the man who had leaked the secret was recognized by the Nine-Colored Deer.

**Medium:** Ink pen

**Size:** 210\*297mm

**Date Completed:** 2019



8

*The King came to resent the evil deed of the man, so he ordered that no one would be allowed to hurt the kind-hearted Nine-Colored Deer, and the man to be punished as he deserved.*

**Medium:** Ink pen

**Size:** 210\*297mm

**Date Completed:** 2019



9

From then on, the nine-color deer had lived carefree in the mountains and forests.

**Medium:** Ink pen

**Size:** 210\*297mm

**Date Completed:** 2019

The first half of the story of the Nine-Colored Deer is very similar to the classic Farmer and Snake. The difference is that Farmer and Snake uses tragedy to alert the world and teach people to distinguish good from evil. In comparison, Nine-Colored Deer offers a happy ending, teaching people that helping others will eventually yield happiness. This difference may provoke the readers to think about the cultural differences between the East and the West.

# Fashion Redesign

I was born in Guangxi. As a result, I gained familiarity with ethnic minorities and their cultures. As I grow older, I found that in other provinces in China, the culture of ethnic minorities is not well known to the public. I think the mutual output and collision between different cultures can produce wonderful chemical reactions, bringing aesthetic inspirations and appreciation.

I redesigned the three sets of ethnic costumes. I incorporated elements of modern costumes (evolved from Western clothing traditions). They then became three sets of brand-new looks. In my design, different structures and different materials infused harmoniously, full of vitality.

## Look 1



**Before**

**Pattern: Sleeve**



**Medium:** Organza / Ribbon  
**Date Completed:** 2020

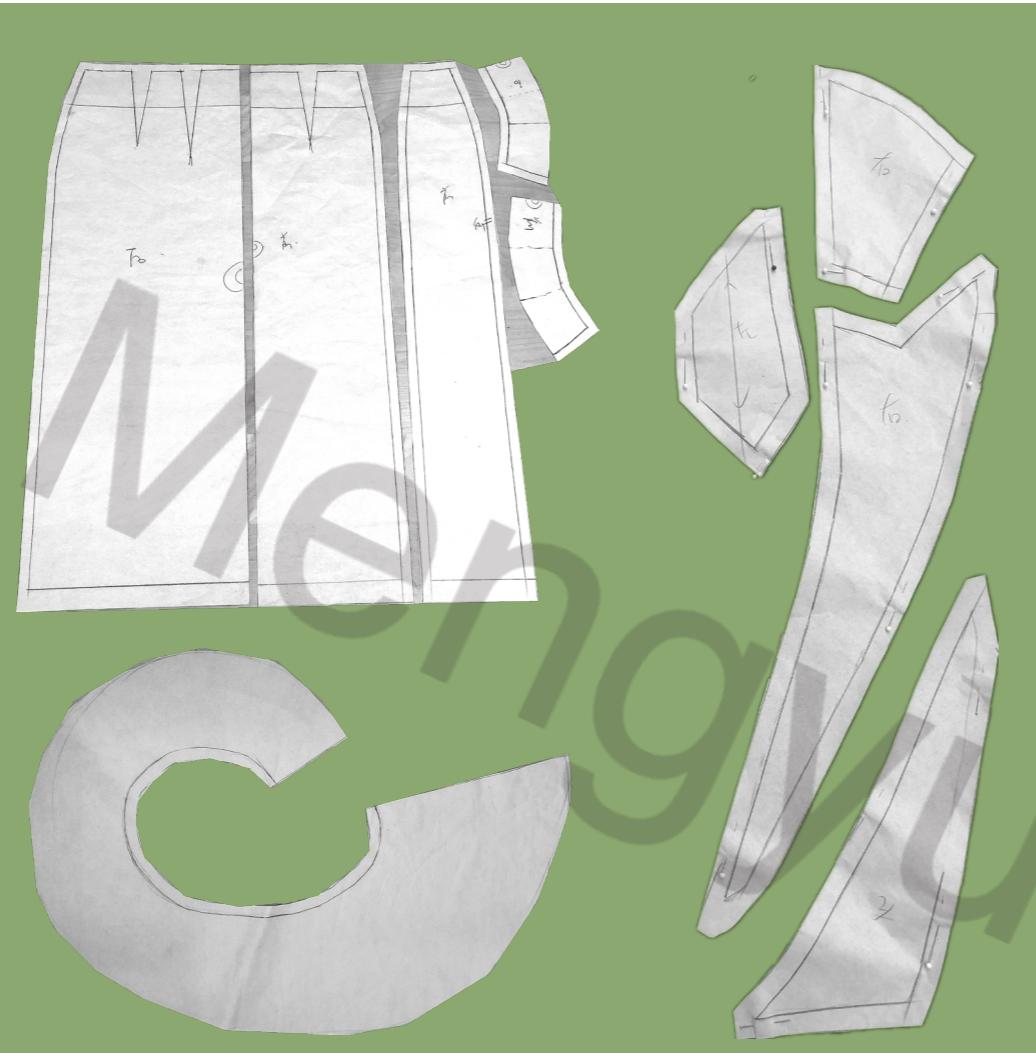
## **Look 2**



**Before**

Two typical collars are very popular in the workplace. The urban style and national style are combined with each other.

The three-dimensional cutting hemline with a simple tight skirt, very attractive.



**Pattern:** Skirt / Collar



**Medium:** Satin / Cotton  
**Date Completed:** 2020



## Look 3



**Before**

**Pattern: Hat**

Gorgeous embroidery and beads are often seen on fashion shows. I think these fashion elements can be combined with the embroidery of national costumes.

I made a hat for this national vest, with beautiful lace and pearl buttons. It's young and energetic.



**Medium: Velvet / Lace / Button**  
**Date Completed: 2020**