



Kati Närhi



What was the commission?

To do an illustration for Tiina and Antti Herlin Foundation's blog about Childrens' book institute and learning by phenomenon. All the writings of the blog converse on climate change.

What was the biggest challenge of this assignment?

I had freedom with this illustration. Sometimes it can be difficult to decide which way to go, but not with this. This was fun to do, because reading and children's books are an inspiration to me.

What is the first thing you do when you receive a commission?

Sketch it and try out different colour combinations.

Did the finished work turn out the way you thought it would?

I am pretty pleased with the image. It has funny looking characters and interesting details and also the composition works.



Describe your sketch process.

I usually draw messy sketches with pencil and then I'll do a cleaner version of the sketch with illustrator/photoshop. I send the clean sketch to customer, often with a colour map. With a new customer I often draw a little part of the picture quite ready, so it's easier to figure out how it will look when it is finished. If the customer already knows my style well, just a pencil sketch might be enough to illustrate my idea.

What was the feedback you were given ?

When I sent the sketch to the client I was told to add one object to the image. The final image was approved and the client was happy and satisfied with the illustration.

Did you have to go outside of your "comfort zone" in this commission?

Yes, I often try something different. Now I wanted to simplify my style a bit.