



Terhi Ekebom



What was the commission?

I was commissioned to make an illustration for Kuvittajat ry, Finnish Illustrators' & Arts Promotional Centre Finland's seminar & spring party invitation and promotional material.

What was the biggest challenge of this assignment?

I had lots of artistic freedom with this assignment, I wanted to use it as fully as possible. The visual material would also reach possible future clients, so I wanted to make a picture which represents the style I would like to use in the future. I wanted to make the picture "happy" but also "adult", "smart" but at the same time "sensual".

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

I try to keep my head cool and think what would be the approach of my choice. I wanted to make a happy and sunny image, but especially here in the north, spring is also a time of awakening for all things – like rejoicing/sexy/love/frolic/finding pairs... I came up with an idea of using dancing fauns and flowers.



Describe your sketch process.

I described my idea at the meeting with the Illustrators' organisation and they liked it instantly. I made fast sketches at the meeting: the shape of the picture (vertical) for the invitation and the Facebook event. The main characters would be in the middle, to be cropped for the Instagram use.

The menu of the spring party was also very inspiring. I suggested that I would use wild herbs and edible flowers from it as a part of the illustration.

After the meeting I started the work by googling pictures of the fauns, to see how they are traditionally described, what kind of horns they have, what kind of body shapes and proportions they have. I wanted my characters to be recognised directly as fauns, not some random hybrids. I studied their hooves and the joints of their feet since they were new to me. I also googled wild herbs and edible flowers.

Then I made a detailed sketch with pencil and it was accepted. After that I continued with the work and made the final design.



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

I am very happy with the work. I used a bit stronger colours than I thought I would, but I'm very happy about that. I like the deep blue parts on the sides, it brightens the yellow areas.

What inspired you to make the commission the way you did?

It was the person who subscribed the illustration. We had a good talk.

What was the feedback you were given ?

The client was very happy and I colleagues also complimented the work.

What did you learn from the process of this commission?

I don't know if I learned something specific but I gained more confidence of doing all kinds of commissions.