

Nicholas Parrott

2020

Guides

This piece was created for a project that involved creating a surreal image using photoshop. I decided to use some of my favorite themes and settings to create this piece, the first being science fiction. The stars and planets, all seeable from this lakeside view, has always interested me conceptually. Next, I wanted to add life to this image and while it had trees and other plant life, I wanted an animal to symbolize the curiosity and audacity needed to find these views and be both unexplainable but real and understood. I settled on my favorite animal, the Fox, who is commonly symbolized as a trickster, but is also a prominent guide in many myths. To further add to the surrealist feeling this piece invokes, I add ships sailing the lake, however, they are extremely tiny for what people would consider sailing ships. This is because I wanted the foxes to have an ethereally feel to them like spirits without losing any weight or idea that they are there. A point of science fiction is that everything can be explained and understood, and I did not want to lose that by making these foxes spirits.

The piece makes good use of the golden ratio and rule of thirds. This creates a balance to the piece even with the large amount of information present. The piece also makes a strong use of scale, there are many objects and figures in the piece that contrast each other to further the surrealist feeling of the piece. The pieces biggest flaws come in the form of technical skill, as images quality is not sharp in all places, colors are not aligned and cohesive, and details need to be further exaggerated to be

better understood. Overall, the piece has lots of potential, but is limited by its craftsmanship.

As stated before, this piece is heavily inspired by both science fiction and mythology. It is meant to preserve a sense of understanding and comprehension while still feeling surreal and mythical. This piece is called guides because I wanted it to symbolize our transition into a wider universe. We are only human, there are still things we do not comprehend, but nature and nurture guide us towards understanding, towards the stars. We may not be traveling the stars yet, but we are going somewhere and whether that is up there or down on this earth, only time will tell.

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