



MARAL FOROUZESH YELLOW BIRD

ABOUT ME

- *My work exists at the intersection of professional mastery & raw, intuitive honesty.*

As an illustrator and the founder of Yellow Birds Art Studio, I dedicate my practice to exploring the transformative power of inclusion.

By collaborating with children with Down syndrome, I seek to translate their unfiltered gaze into a visual language that challenges conventional boundaries of art.

With a decade of experience & a background in Graphic Design, my mission is not merely to create art, but to build a world where the 47th chromosome is recognized as a gateway to a deeper, more primal wisdom and unconditional love.

SOCIAL IMPACT & CREATIVE LEADERSHIP

- **Creative Direction:** Leading innovative art projects and immersive performances at Yellow Birds Art Studio.
 - **Artistic Mentorship:** Developing specialized curricula to unlock the creative potential of neurodiverse talents.
 - **Curation & Management:** Organizing international exhibitions and inclusive workshops for neurodivergent artists.
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INTERNATIONAL ILLUSTRATION AWARDS

- Finalist, Nami Illustration Festival, Korea / 2026
- Finalist, Singapore Illustration Festival, 2026
- Winner, Anka Illustration Award - Canada / 2026
- Winner, Bologna Illustration Award - Italy / 2025
- Winner, Moscow Illustration Award - Russia / 2025
- Selected, Jury Prize, University of Palermo Illustration Festival - Argentina / 2025
- Winner, Belgrade Illustration Festival - Serbia 2024
- Finalist, Golden Pen Biennial, Belgrade - Serbia / 2025
- Finalist, Bologna Illustration Festival - Italy 2024
- Finalist of China Golden Panda Illustration Festival - 2024
- Selected Art Exhibitions in Vienna Blockchain Week - 2024
- Finalist, Golden Pen Illustration Biennial Belgrade, Serbia / 2023
- Finalist, China Golden Panda Illustration Festival / 2023
- Winner, Sharjah Illustration Award Dubai / 2023
- Finalist, Singapore Illustration Festival / 2023
- Finalist, Ukraine Cow Illustration Festival / 2020
- Special Jury Winner of China Golden Panda Illustration Festival / 2017

INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION AWARDS

Animation F I L K O O L

Writer and Director: **MARAL FOROUZESH**

Producer: NASER REZAEIYAN

Trailer Link :

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pAeYUjtdsaFx1SDfAtQFKAK6SgAhZAPm/view?usp=drive_link

Award Winner

- Big Muddy Film Festival, Carbondale, USA 2026
- Massachusetts Independent Film Festival Worcester, USA 2026
- Slash Eyes International Film Festival, Los Angeles, USA 2026
- New York Short Animation Festival, New York, USA 2025
- Music Video Awards - Coimbra, Portugal 2025
- Best Short Film Competition, USA 2025
- Best Short Animation Festival, Srinagar, India 2025

Semi-Finalist

- **Semi-Finalist, Cannes World Film Festival 2026**

Jury Award / Honorable Mention

- Rome International Film Awards - Rome, Italy 2026
- Touchstone Independent Film Festival - Aspen, USA 2026
- Sustain Film Festival - USA 2026
- Urban Short Film Festival - Chicago, USA 2025
- In the Dark Short Film Festival - London, UK 2025
- Folkestone Film Festival - Kent, UK 2025

INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION AWARDS

Finalist

- Antigua Film Festival - Antigua, Guatemala 2026
- Kalaburagi International Film Festival India 2026
- Jankapur International Film Festival - Jankapur, Nepal 2026
- White Rose International Film Festival - Leeds, England 2026
- Dream Catchers Film Festival - USA 2025

Official Selection

- Hanuman Film Festival – Thailand 2026
- River Film Festival – Padua, Italy 2026
- Melrose Hill Short Film Festival – Los Angeles 2025
- Fisheye International Film Festival, Hay and Icombe, UK 2026
- Nevada Women's Film Festival – Las Vegas USA 2026
- Twin Falls Film Festival – Twin Falls USA 2026
- Sweet Short Film Festival – Cleveland, USA 2026
- Sorrento Film & Food Festival – Italy 2025
- Richmond Film Network – Canada 2025
- Awards of Excellence – Australia 2025
- Kerala Independent Short Film Festival – India 2025
- 11th Bahia Independent Cinema – Brazil 2025
- Philadelphia Animation Festival – USA 2025
- American short Film Festival Festival – California, USA 2025
- American Film & animation Festival – USA 2025

ART EXHIBITIONS

- Group Exhibition of Illustrations, Nami Korea /2026
- Group Exhibition of Illustrations, Bologna. Italy /2025
- Group Exhibition of Illustrations, Belgrade Serbia /2023 , 2025
- Group Exhibition of Sculptures of People with Down Syndrome / Cocoon / Kalhor Gallery Rasht / 2025
- Performance of Cocoon with People with Down Syndrome Deilman Shopping Center Rasht / 2025
- Group Exhibition of Illustrations and sculpture of People with Down Syndrome / Kalhor Gallery Rasht / 2024
- Solo Exhibition of Illustrations / Toshka Gallery / Rasht / 2023
- Group Exhibition of Illustrations / Sharjah Dubai / 2023
- Group Exhibition of Illustrations / Singapore / 2023
- Group Exhibition of Illustrations / S. Brunner Gallery Zurich Switzerland / 2022
- Group Exhibition of Illustrations Rastak / Mirali Tabrizi Gallery Tabriz / 2022
- Group Exhibition of Illustrations / My Imaginary Friend, Farda Gallery / Tehran / 2017
- Solo Exhibition of Illustrations / Minus Me / White House Gallery / Rasht / 2016
- Group Exhibition of Illustrations / Good Day of Childhood, Sarvestan Gallery / Kerman / 2016
- Group Exhibition of Illustrations / City Center Gallery / Isfahan / 2016
- Group Exhibition of Illustrations / Delle Arte Gallery / Italy / 2016
- Group Exhibition of Illustrations / One Thousand and One Nights Artists' House / Tehran / 2015
- Group Exhibition of Illustrations / Afdesta Gallery / Shiraz / 2015
- Group Exhibition of Illustrations / Children's Stories Tehran International Exhibition / 2014

BOOKS

- **A GIRL NAMED MARI (Forthcoming / 2026)**
Authers & Illustrators: Maral & Mazdak Forouzesh & Kowecka
(Currently in development for international publication)
- **F I L K O O L**
OU publications / Authers & Illustrators: Maral & Mazdak Forouzesh / 2025
- **KHAL KHALI**
Noregiti Publications / Illustrator: Maral Forouzesh / 2023
- **HERO COAT**
Illustrator: Maral Forouzesh / 2015
- **LITTLE BIRD**
Illustrator: Maral Forouzesh / 2014
- **BAAM BAAM**
Bloor Publications / Illustrator: Maral Forouzesh / 2014

MAGAZINES

- **EDITORIAL COLLABORATIONS**
Dooste koodak & nojavan (Teenagers 'Cultural Magazine)
Soroush koodakan (Leading Children's Magazine)
Popak (Kid's Magazine) / Tavana (Specialized Publication)
Art magazine (Specialized Arts & Culture)

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

- Cycling
- Listening to music
- Forest Camping
- Experiencing new things
- Spreading joy through art
- Performing artistic and social activities with children with Down syndrome



For collaborations or exhibition inquiries,
feel free to reach out.

MARAL FOROUZESH

mari.art00777@gmail.com

📷 mary.yellow.bird

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