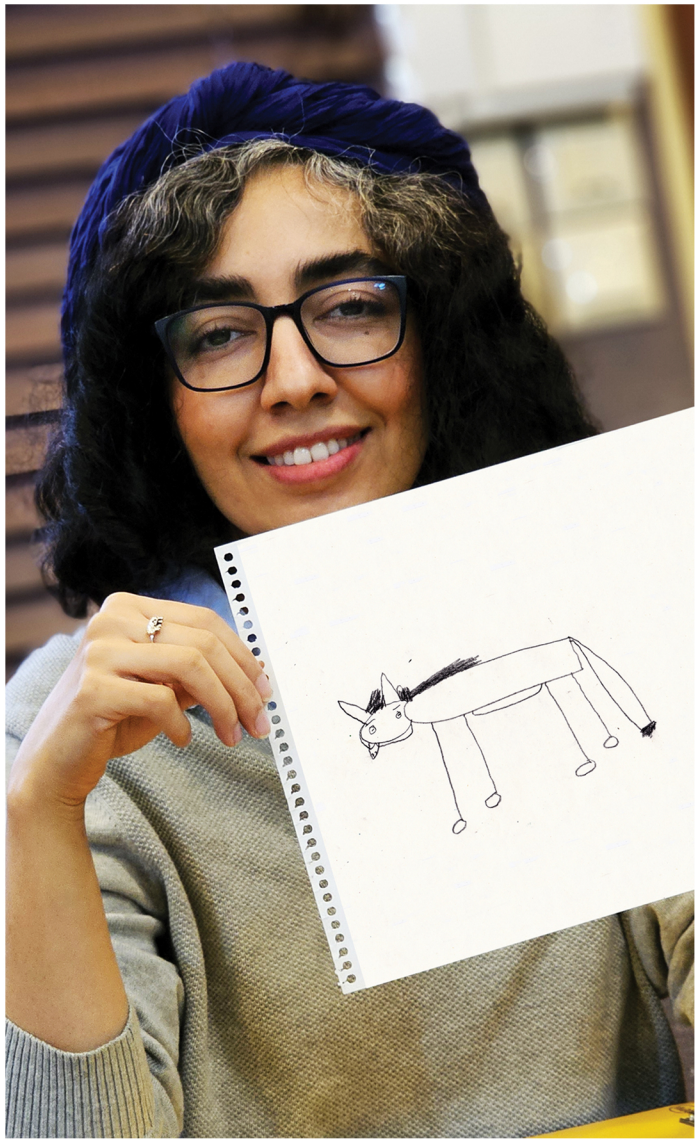
P O R T F O L I O

BOOK ILLUSTRATION

M A R A L F O R O U Z E S H

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YELLOW BIRDS
ART STUDIO

MARAL FOROUZESH

ILLUSTRATOR / Graphic Designer /Art Director

- Bachelor of Graphic Arts
- Artistic Mentor for Neurodivergent Talents
- Curator of Inclusive Art Exhibitions
- Member of Iranian Illustrators Association
- Founder & Creative Director of Yellow Birds Art Studio

ABOUT US (YELLOW BIRDS ART STUDIO)

The Aesthetics of Difference

• **Yellow Birds Art Studio** is where my professional illustration meets the raw, intuitive **world of my brother, MAZDAK** (an artist with Down Syndrome). Together, we redefine 'difference' not as a limitation, but as a profound source of artistic magic. We create a universe where every character embodies the 47th chromosome, transforming Down Syndrome into a vibrant visual language that challenges traditional boundaries."





A GIRL NAMED MARI

Mix- 2025

• A collaborative collage masterpiece merging my visual narrative with the raw, authentic strokes of Mazdak and Kowecka. It is a journey into a tulip-tinted world, seen through the eyes of a neurodivergent protagonist.

• Finalist of Nami Concours - South Korea 2026 • Winner, Anka Illustration Award - Canada / 2026
• Winner of Bologna Illustration Festival - Italy 2025 • Finalist of Belgrade Illustration Festival - 2025
• Finalist of Golden Pen of Belgrade Biennal of Illustration - 2025 • Selected at the 2026 BIC Illustration Festival in Singapore • 19th Latin American Illustration Award 2025 / Jury Appreciation







A GIRL NAMED MARI

MIX - 2025







A GIRL NAMED MARI

MIX - 2025

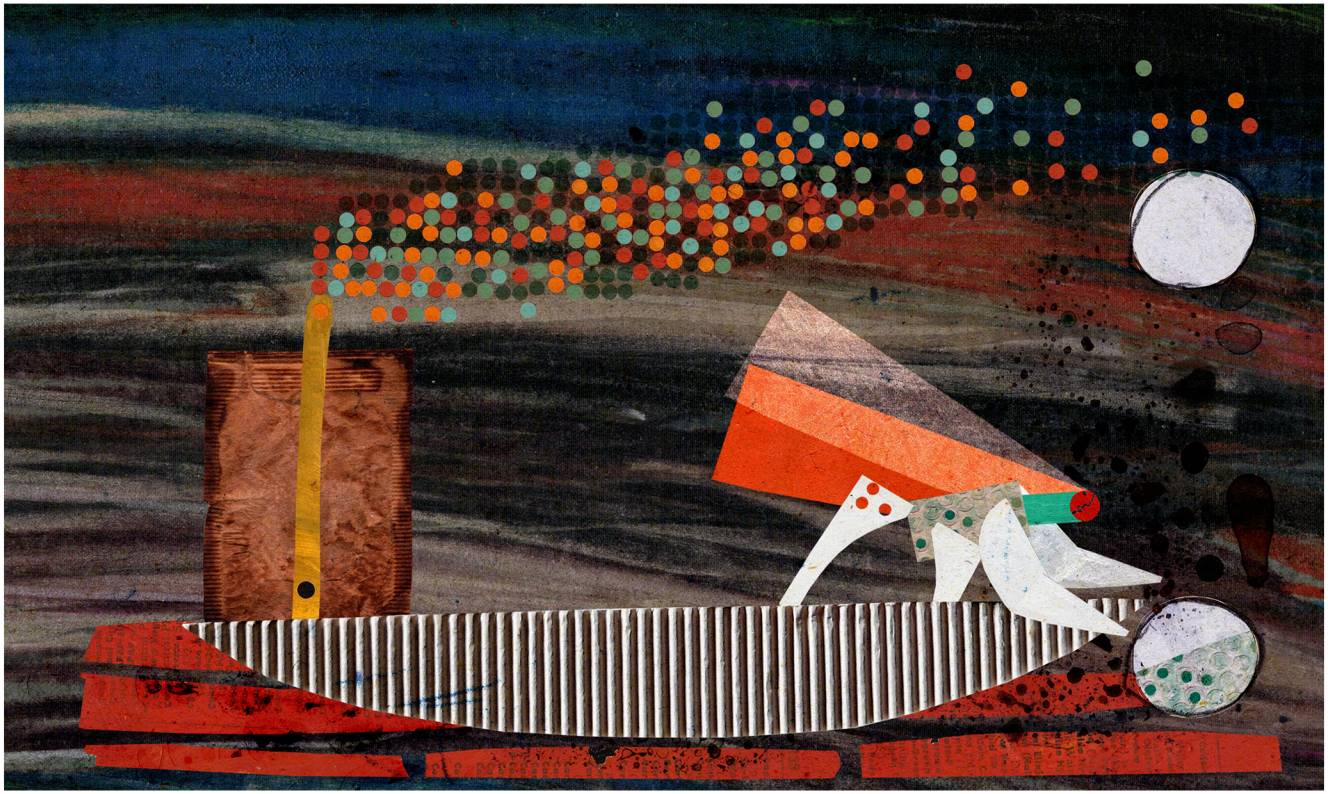


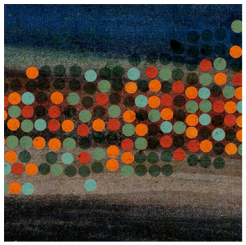


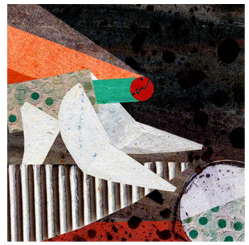


A GIRL NAMED MARI

MIX - 2025

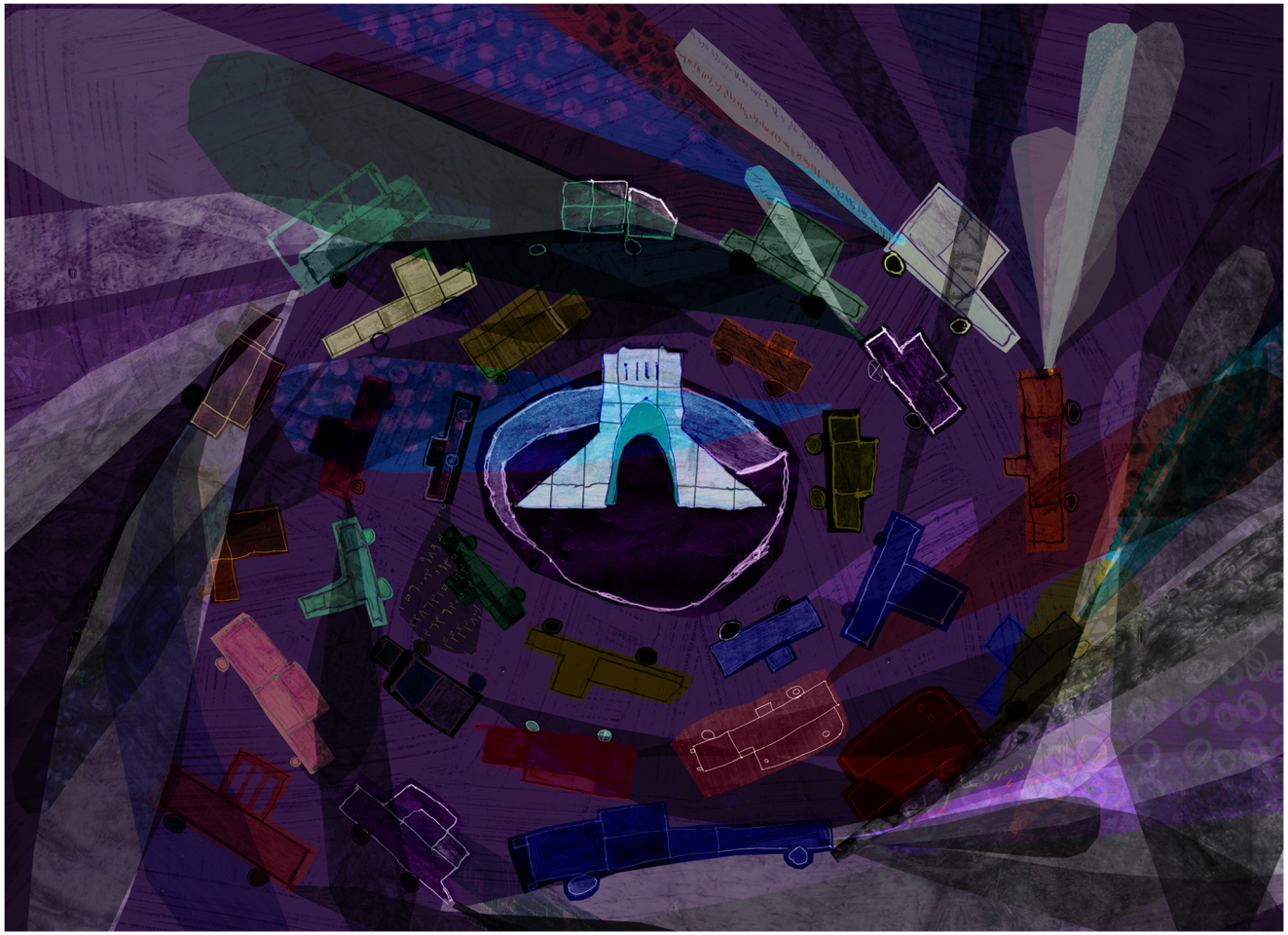






A GIRL NAMED MARI

MIX - 2025



WORKING CHILDREN

MIX - 2023

• A poignant visual exploration of the lives of working children in Iran. This project uses mixed media to give a voice to the voiceless, capturing the resilience and lost childhoods in the urban landscape.

• Winner of Book Illustration Festival Sharjah, Dubai /2023 • Finalist of Golden Panda Illustration Biennial China / 2023 • Finalist Golden pen of Belgrade - Serbia 2025



WORKING CHILDREN

MIX - 2023



WORKING CHILDREN

MIX - 2023



WORKING CHILDREN

MIX- 2023



• The story is about an old woman named Ollie, who has Down syndrome, and faces many obstacles on her way home. But with patience, she overcomes them all. She sees the world through a creative lens - traveling on a pumpkin she calls her ship and talking to birds who guide her along the way.

• Winner of Moscow-Russia Illustration Festival 2025 • Finalist of Bologna Illustration Exhibition, Italy / 2024 • Finalist of Singapore Illustration Competition / 2024 • Finalist of Golden Pen of Belgrade Biennial of Illustration, Serbia / 2023

OLLIE

MIX - 2023



OLLIE
MIX - 2023



OLLIE
MIX - 2023



OLLIE
MIX- 2023







HOOHAA & MAZDAK

MIX - 2026

• The story is about a big, black creature who is always sad & can't smile - he meets a boy named Mazdak who has Down syndrome - Mazdak makes the creature happy by doing very simple things... Mazdak reminds us that we don't need to do hard, unexpected things to be happy...



HOOHAA & MAZDAK

MIX - 2026



HOOHAA & MAZDAK

MIX-2026

YELLOW BIRDS
ART STUDIO

[Open to global collaborations, exhibition inquiries, and social impact projects.]

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