

YAMEL V. FIGUEROA SOTOMAYOR

ILLUSTRATION & CHARACTER DESIGN

CONTACT

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Skills:

- Picture Book Illustration
- Character Design
- Visual Development
- Concept Art & Prop Design
- Art Direction

Software:

- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Illustrator
- Procreate
- Basecamp & Asana
- Wacom Products
- Mac OS & Windows
- Google Applications

Soft Skills:

- Team collaboration
- Strong work ethic
- Leadership
- Effective communication
- Good at problem-solving
- Detail oriented
- Bilingual: English & Spanish



EXPERIENCE

Academic Director & Professor | 2018 – Present

Atlantic University – San Juan, Puerto Rico

- Lead and oversee the digital animation program, ensuring curriculum alignment with industry standards and student success. Supervising 10+ professors of the program.
- Teach concept art, character design, and portfolio courses, fostering creativity and technical skills.
- Mentor students in artistic growth and career development.

Book Illustrator | 2020 – Present

SM Puerto Rico

- Illustrated “Dos Detectives y un Gato,” winner of the XII El Barco de Vapor Puerto Rico 2024 award, demonstrating the ability to deliver high-quality illustrations under tight deadlines.

Editorial Destellos

- Pitu le baila al mar (2021)
- Al Ritmo de Petra (2022)
- Encontrando a Paco (2023)

Freelance Character Designer | 2015-present

Atención Atención

created poses for the company’s characters.

Atlantic University - Creative Team

designed a character for the Suncoast Regional Emmy Awards’ nominated commercial “Los Nuevos Creadores”.

AWARDS

- International Latino Book Awards (2022):
Gold Medals in:
 - Best Use of Photos or Illustrations
 - Best First Book (Children & Youth - Spanish)
 - Best LGBTQ+ Themed Book
 - Best Fiction Picture Book for ChildrenBronze Medal in:
 - Best Latina Themed Book
- Campoy-Ada Awards (2022):
Honorable Mention for *Pitu le baila al mar* in the Picture Book category.
- Academy of Art University Spring Show (2018):
Runner-up in Best Character Design category.

EDUCATION

Academy of Art University – San Francisco, California

Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Visual Development | 2015 – 2018

Escuela de Artes Plásticas – San Juan, Puerto Rico

Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in Animation and Film, with honors | 2008 – 2013