Artist Statement
Erin Cross

I have been studying online communities that focus on the sharing art. There are many unwritten rules about what type of art to make, who appreciates it, as well as the main ideas behind the work. To really gain further understanding I am participating in an online community that creates imaginary creatures, shares those creations with other artists, and auctions the creatures off to other participants within the community. Not content with merely sharing drawings, the group members create entire worlds and species that they then make elaborate works of art for. My study and participation in this niche community has broadened my technical drawing skills as well as given me a study of the differences between high art and low art.

After talking to and learning from other successful artists within this group I made my own species and a world for them. The different species that form the core of this community are called "adoptables" because they are primarily auctioned off to other artists and participants as adoptable pets. The artists that auction their works can be paid in cash using PayPal and those that buy the works gain a beautiful piece of art and are able to participate in the world that the artist created for their species.

This type of group focuses on a particular genre of art that interests me and I plan on continuing my involvement well into the future.

	Title	**Media**	**Original Format**
Figure 1:	Deconstructed Paradise	Digital Illustration	Pixel Art
Figure 2:	Adoptables: Glow and Shine	Digital Illustration	Digital Illustration, Online Community Group
Figure 3:	Pixel Bone	Digital Illustration	Digital illustration, Online community group.
Figure 4:	Breath	Digital Illustration	Still from animation.
Figure 5:	Breath	Digital Illustration	Still from animation.
Figure 6:	Aogi: Crystal Cave Creature	Digital Illustration	Creature from a species created for an online community.
Figure 7:	Aogi: Bayroot Creature	Digital Illustration	Creature from a species created for an online community.
Figure 8:	Aogi: Maroon and Violet	Digital Illustration	Creature from a species created for an online community.
Figure 9:	Untitled	Digital Photography	Photos from an experimental art event I helped to put together.
Figure 10:	Untitled	Digital Photography	A photo of myself explaining the experimental art event to viewers.
Figure 11:	Untitled	Digital Illustration	Screen shot of a choose-your-own-adventure website. Animation coded with html, css and javascript.
Figure 12:	Untitled	Digital Illustration	Screen shot of a choose-your-own-adventure website. Animation coded with html, css and javascript.
Figure 13:	Untitled	Digital Illustration	Screen shot of a choose-your-own-adventure website. Animation coded with html, css and javascript.

Figure 1: Deconstructed Paradise.

Figure 2: Adoptables: Glow and Shine.
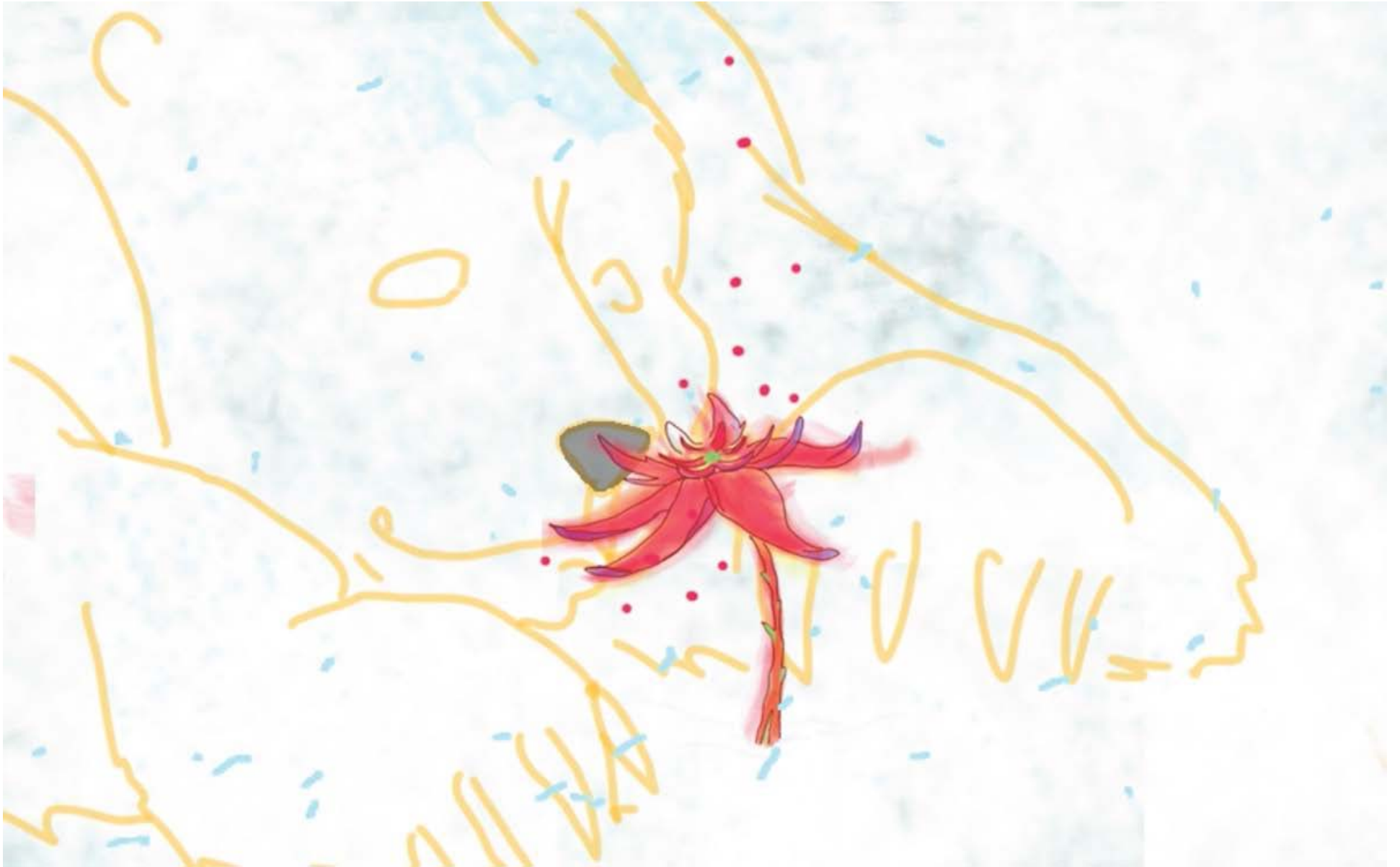
Figure 3: Pixel Bone.

Figure 4: Breath.

Figure 5: Breath.

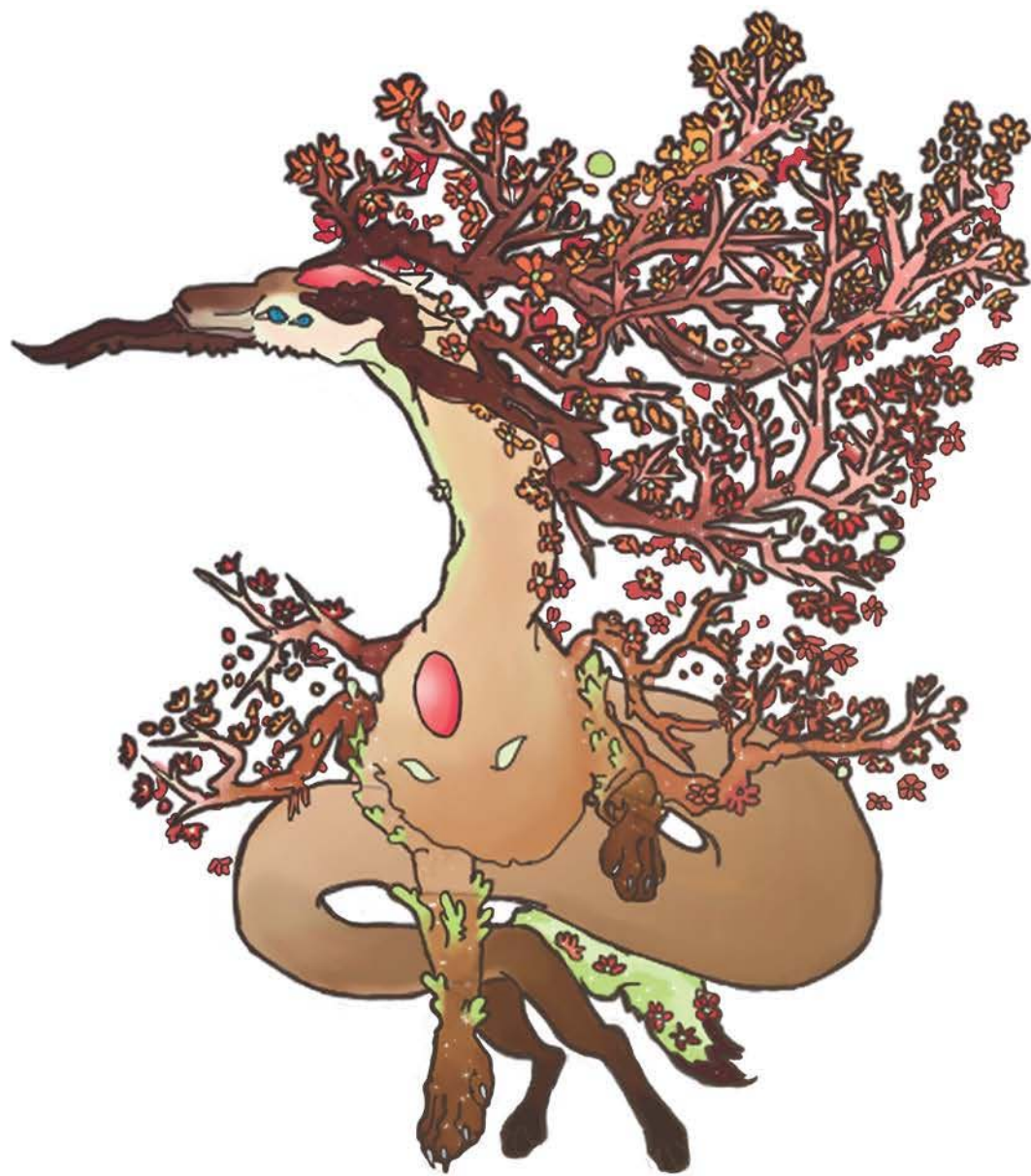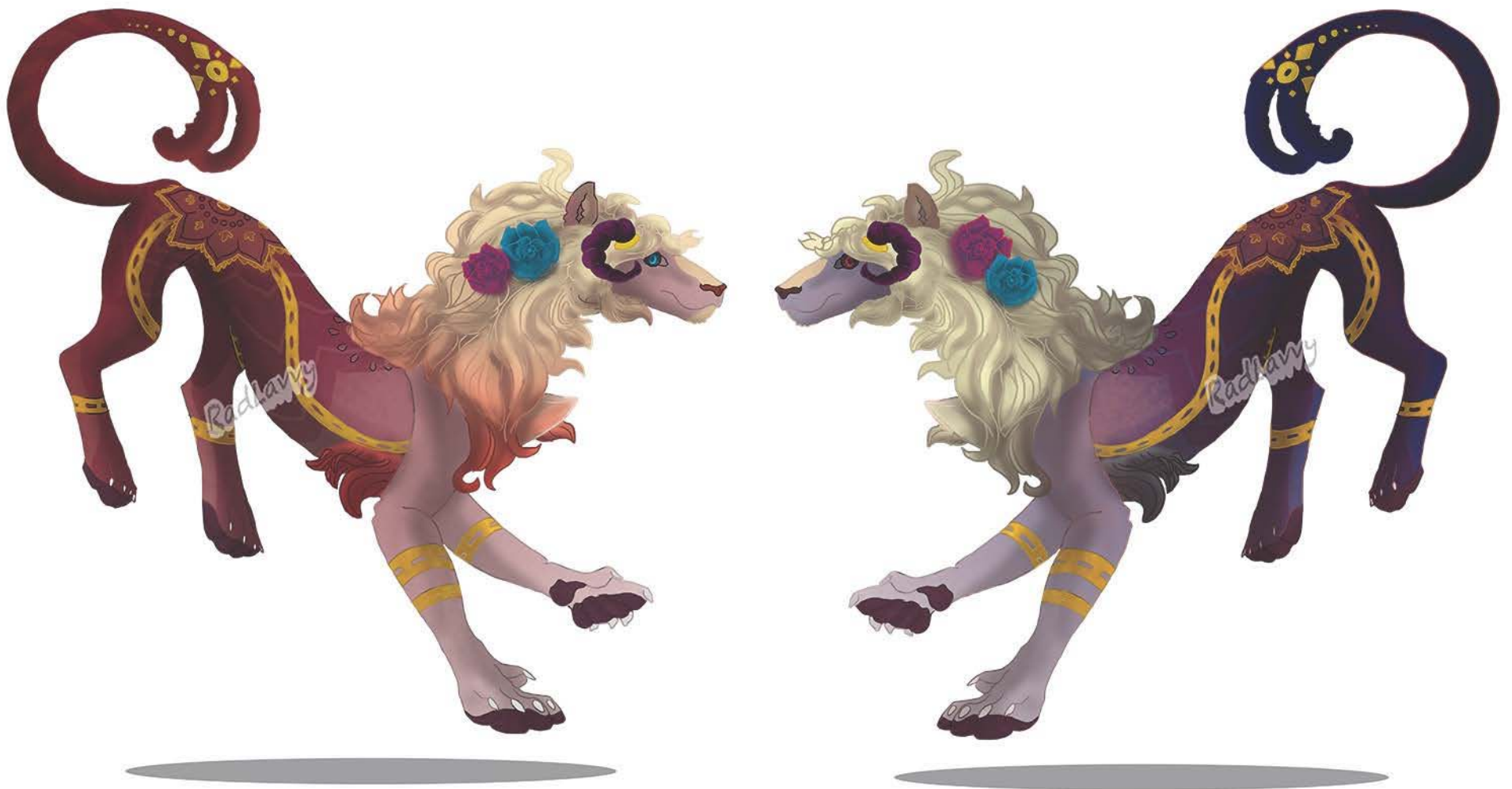**Figure 6: Aogi: Crystal Cave Creature.**

Figure 7: Aogi: Bayroot Creature.

Figure 8: Aogi: Maroon and Violet.

Figure 9: Untitled.

Figure 10: Untitled.

Figure 11: Untitled.

Figure 12: Untitled.

Figure 13: Untitled.