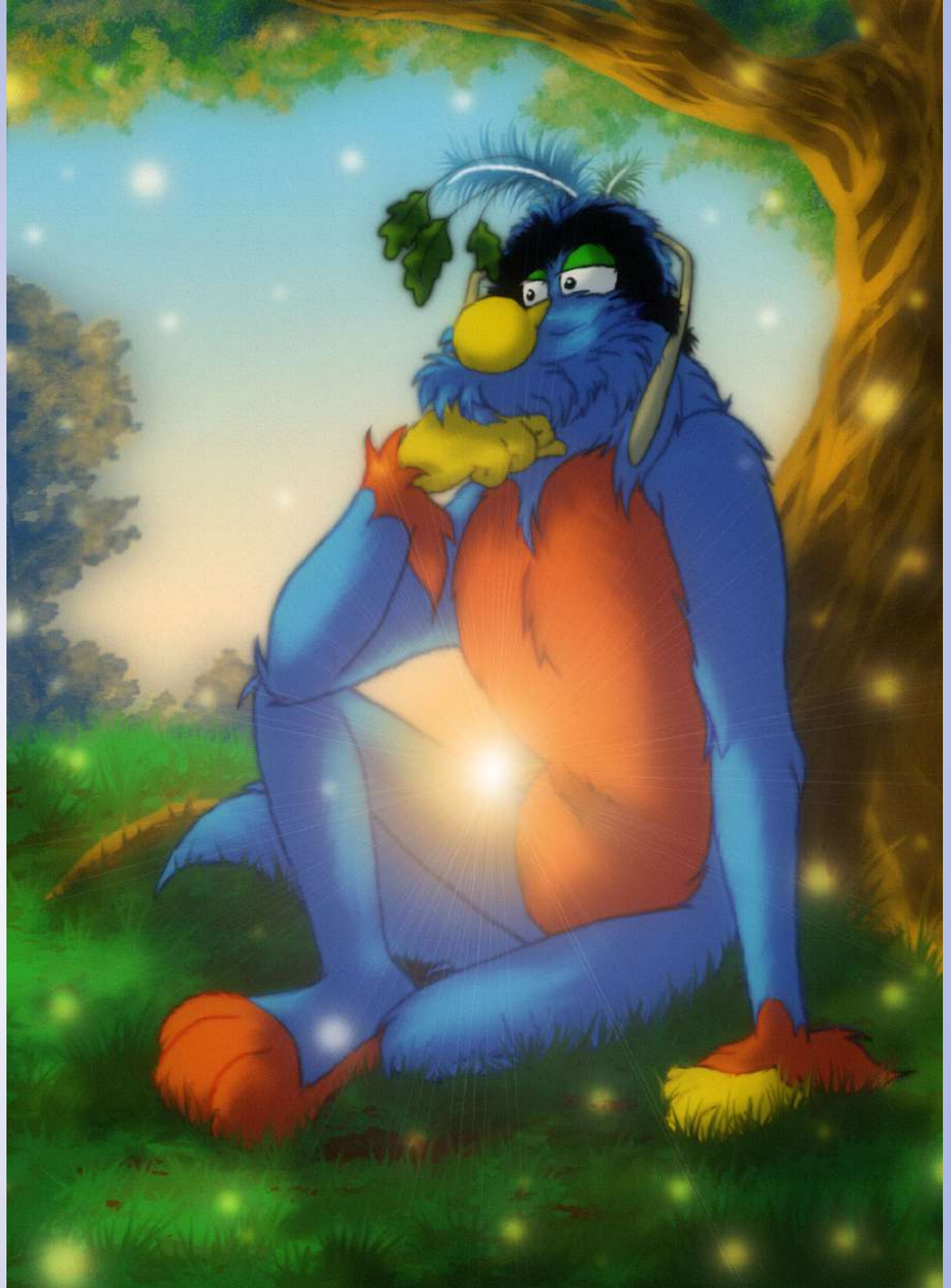


The Dvorovoi who wasn't

An anthology
of Zeliboba fanarts
for his upcoming backstory
(1998–2020,
before interviewing
his designer)



Ever since that one Sesame episode where Zeliboba wished he would “give concerts in his homeland and around the whole world,” I've wondered what his homeland was like. After all, it was clear that he didn't just appear on Sesame Street out of the blue. And for some reason, it always seemed clear enough to me that this homeland simply must be a mountain valley with forests and waterfalls – so that the spirit would have a place to play that'd fit his size. And that the long fluffy coat was a gift to him from his homeland – as well as tie and sneakers being gifts from the city.

With the character designer, Ed Christie, we had an almost identical opinion on this – he “just imagined Zeliboba living in the forest” and didn't even know that he would eventually become a Dvorovoi – a guardian of a courtyard/playground. But Mr. Christie disagreed with the fanon look I gave Zeliboba on the fanarts: to him, the spirit “looked too much like a human, which he's not – he needs a body different from a human.”

Almost all the old arts for Zeli's story (even older ones, when I plain didn't know how to properly draw some of his features, don't count) plus a few ones where he just doesn't wear his coat and has a tail, are collected here for history. Since our conversation with Master Ed, I got some advice from him on what to change about the spirit's appearance (and the backstory itself), so now Zeliboba looks much closer to canon (even when drawn in his homeland) on my fanarts. And his appearance on the earlier ones is simply my wild guesses from over twenty years.

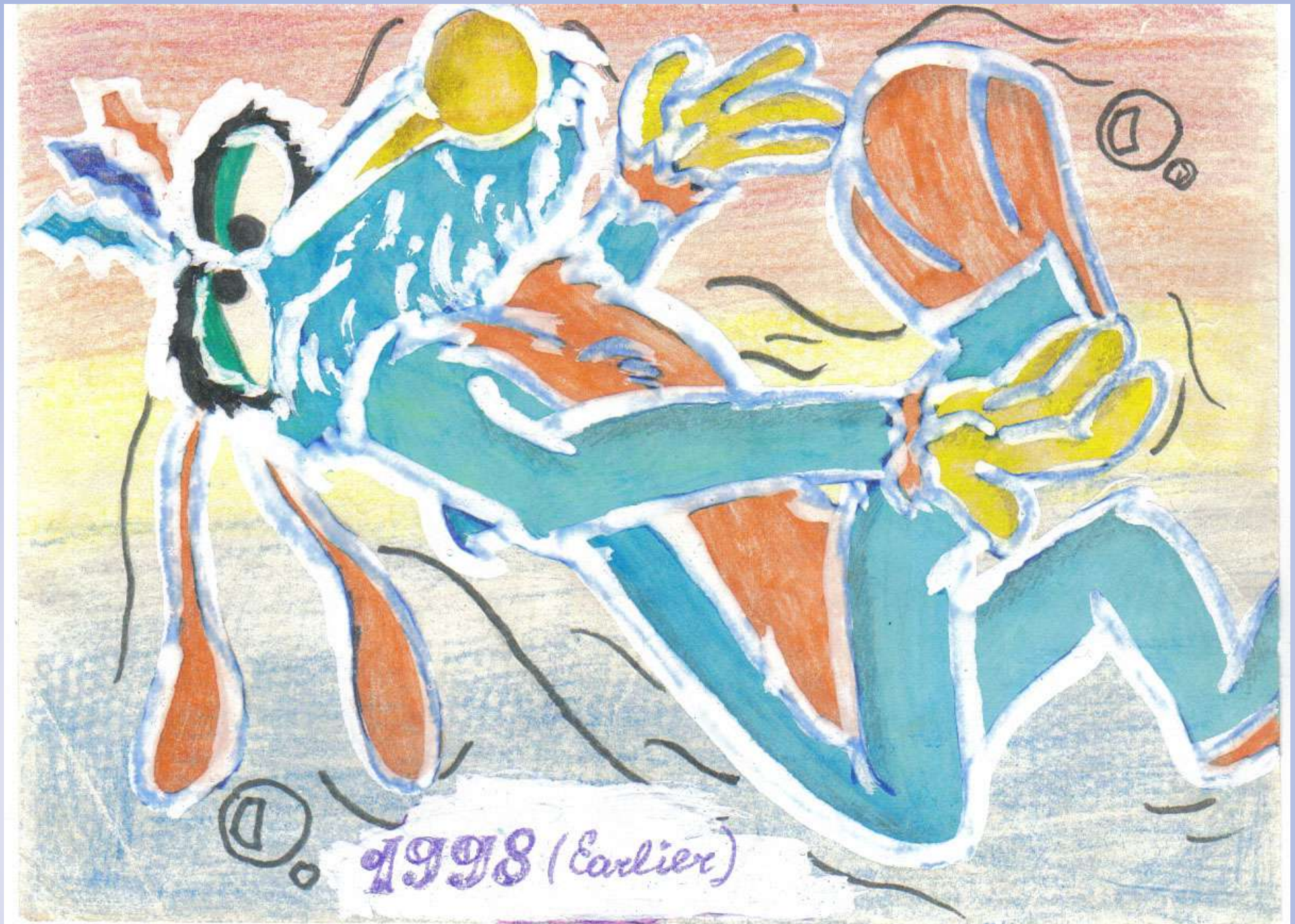
Since Zeli's backstory is still in development, and I almost constantly want the illustrations for it to be perfect – don't be too surprised that some of them will eventually have multiple, “through-the-years” versions.

The fanarts in this anthology have no set titles – just approximal ones.

All arts are by Julia "Azure-Mischief" Kustova

"World of Mysterious Waters" (1998–2020)

All arts are by Julia "Azure-Mischief" Kustova



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"Zelibaby"

(2004, 2006, 2008, 2015)



All arts are by Julia "Azure-Mischief" Kustova



2006 (left, as a toddler cub); 2008 (right; on a sequoia branch with his father)

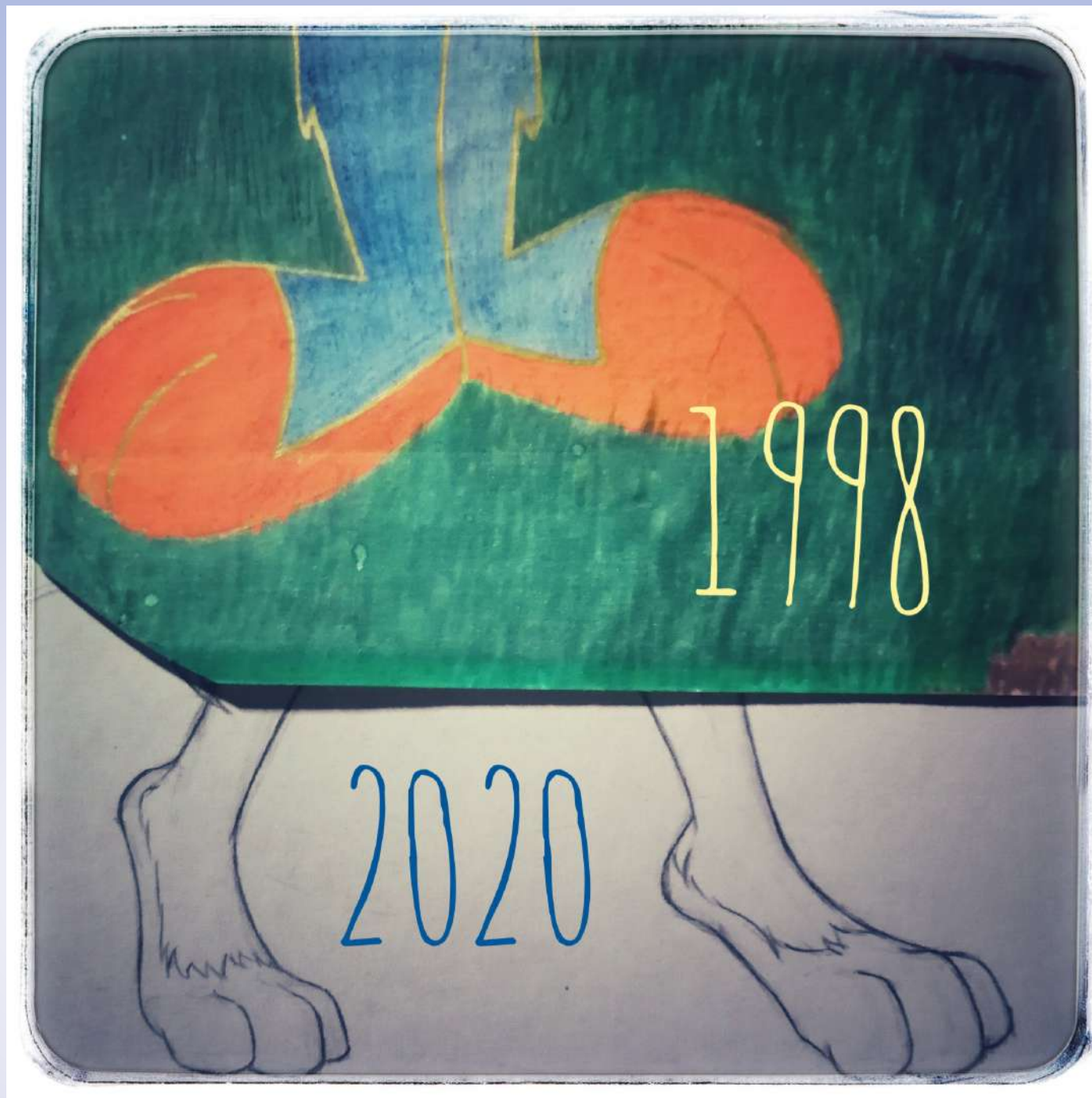


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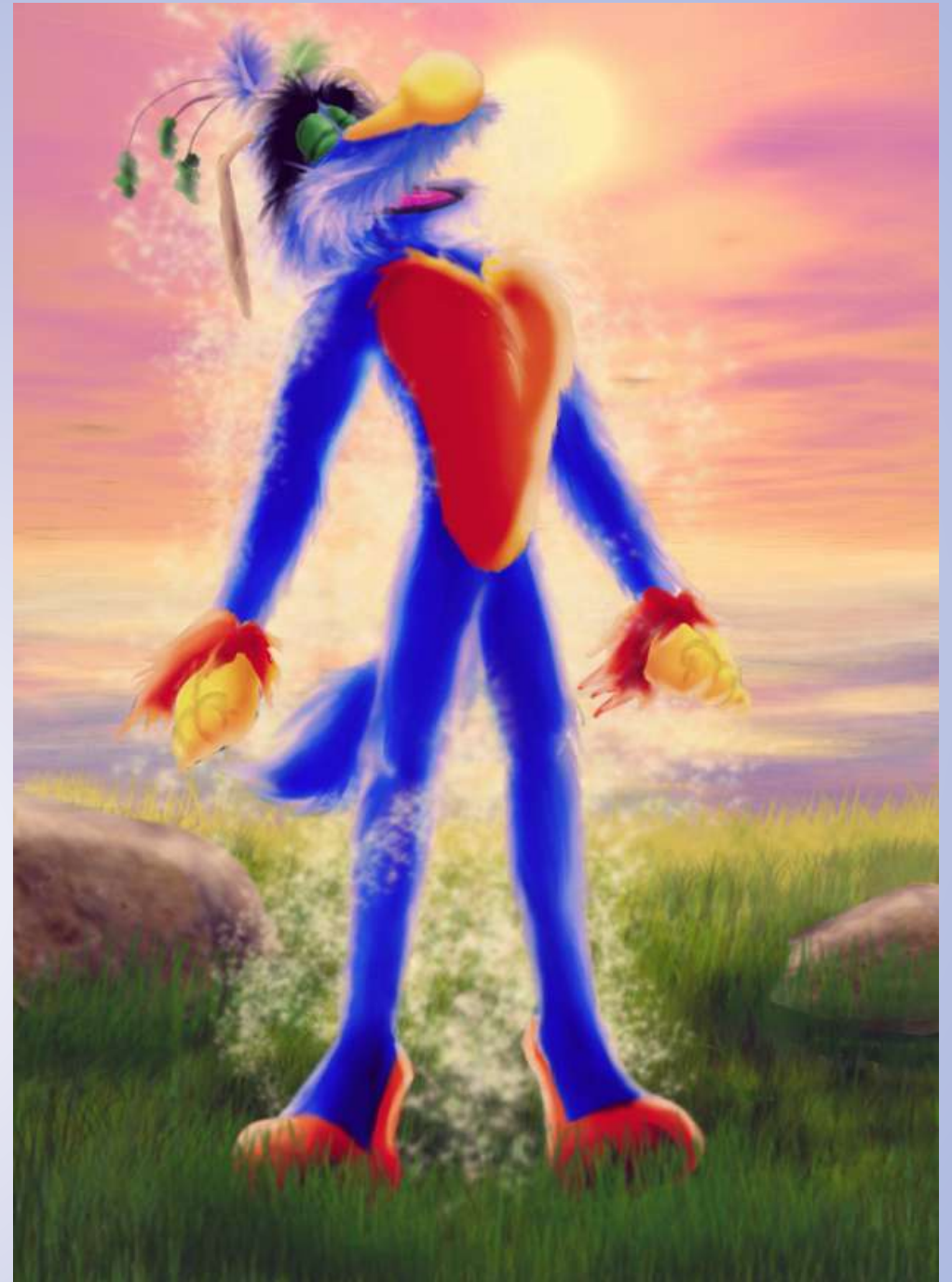
"Streeetch..."

(1998–2020)

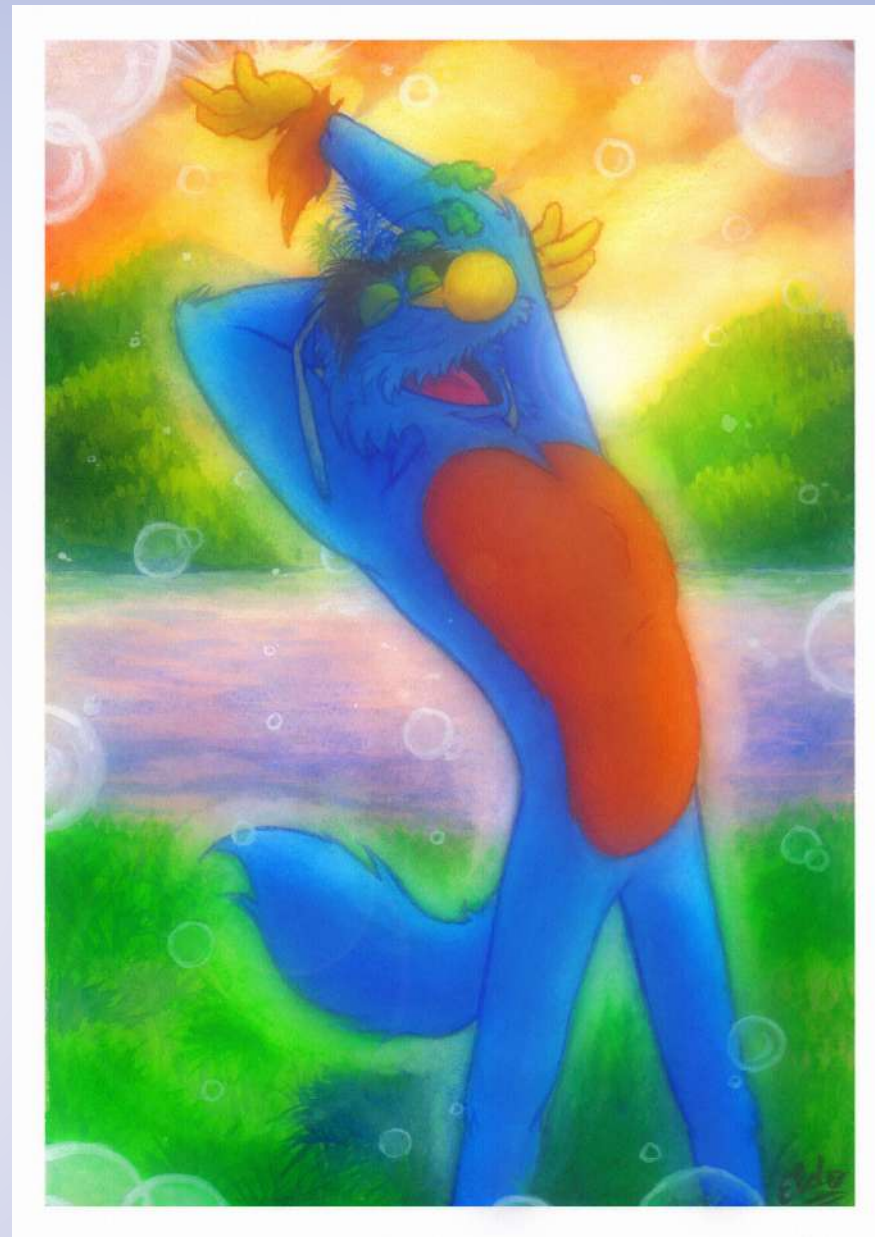
* Sadly, the earliest piece from 1998 has only a fragment with his feet left



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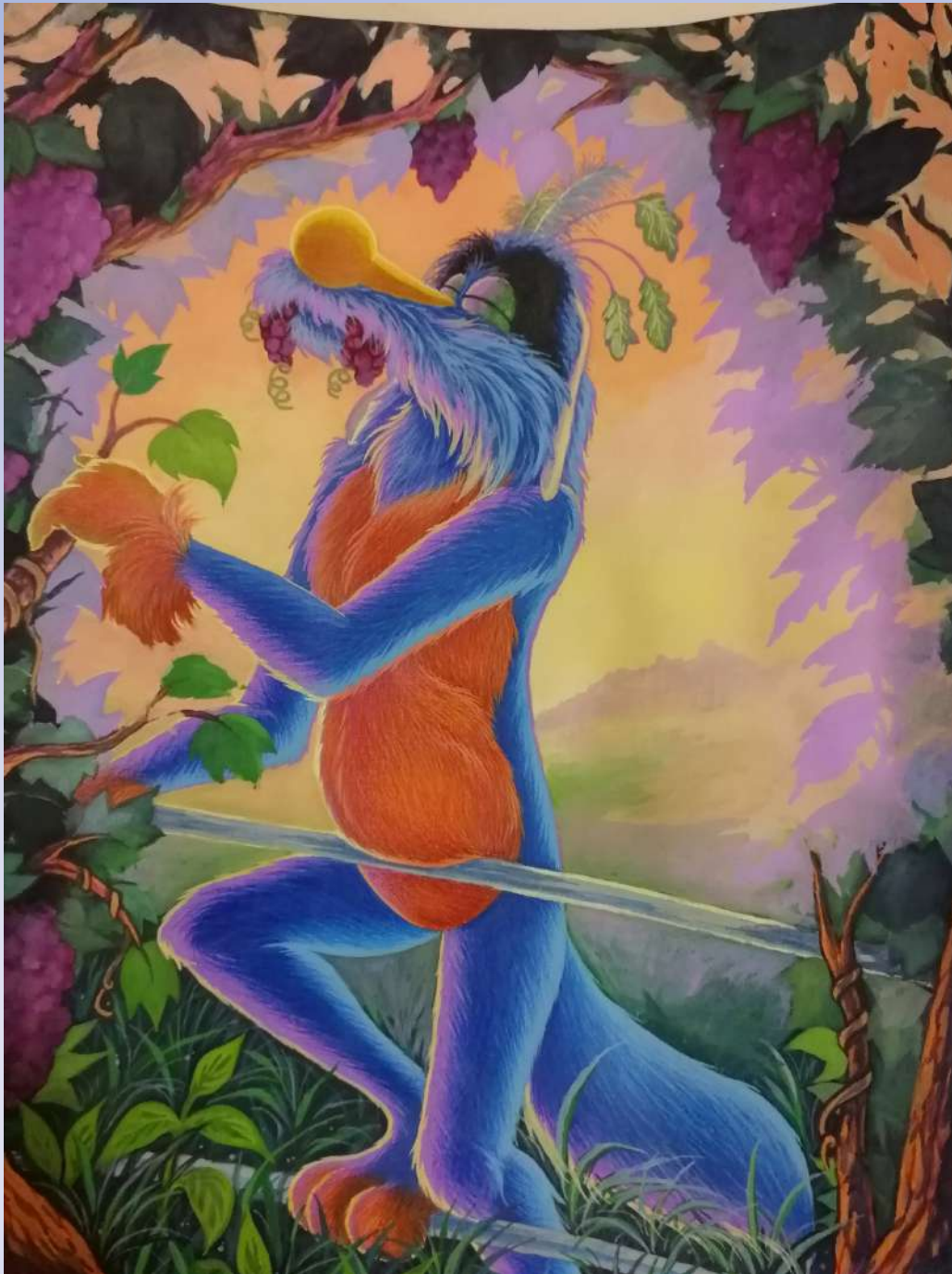
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"In a vineyard" **(2009–2020)**

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All arts are by Julia "Azure-Mischief" Kustova



Exactly this version from 2020 had to be left unfinished – I was working on it just the same month our conversation with Ed Christie happened. Another version, with Zeli looking closer to the original, was started from scratch in 2021 and is to be finished soon.

**"Gorged with
(food and) love"
(2006–2020)**



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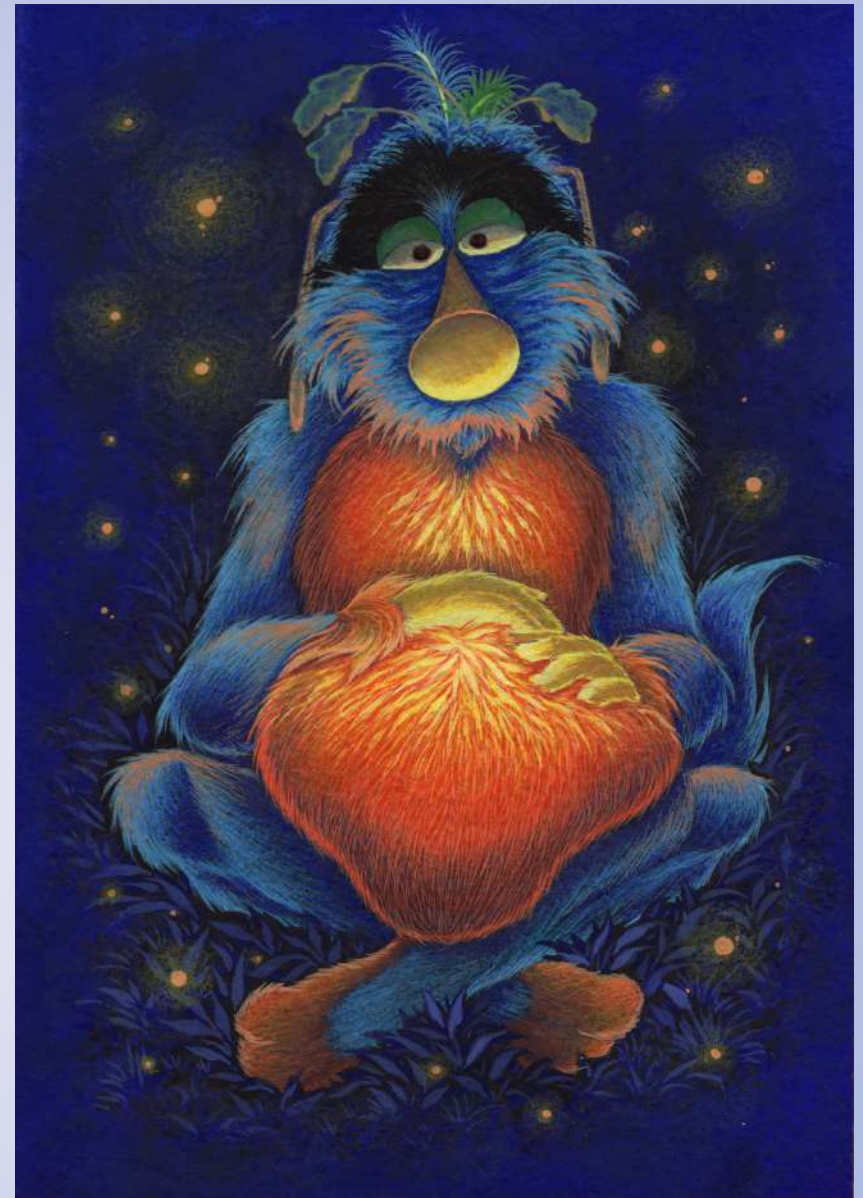
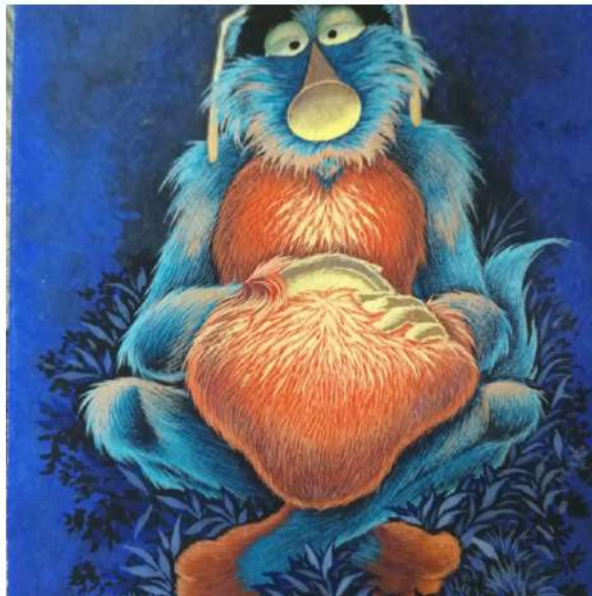
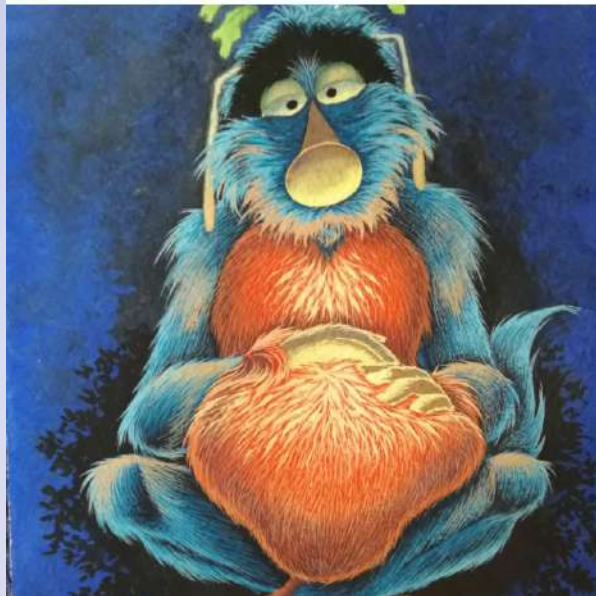
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Miscellaneous arts from before 2020

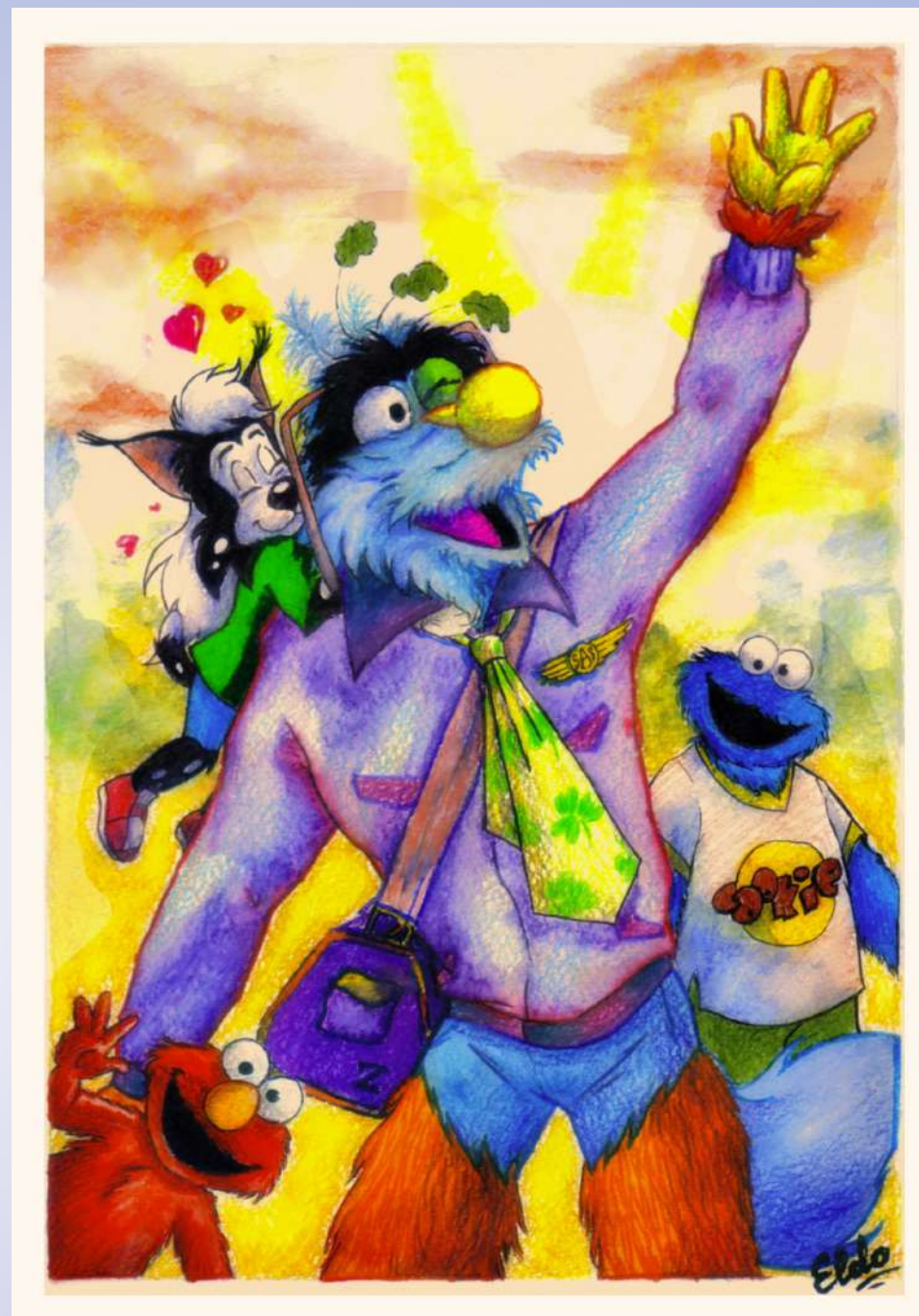
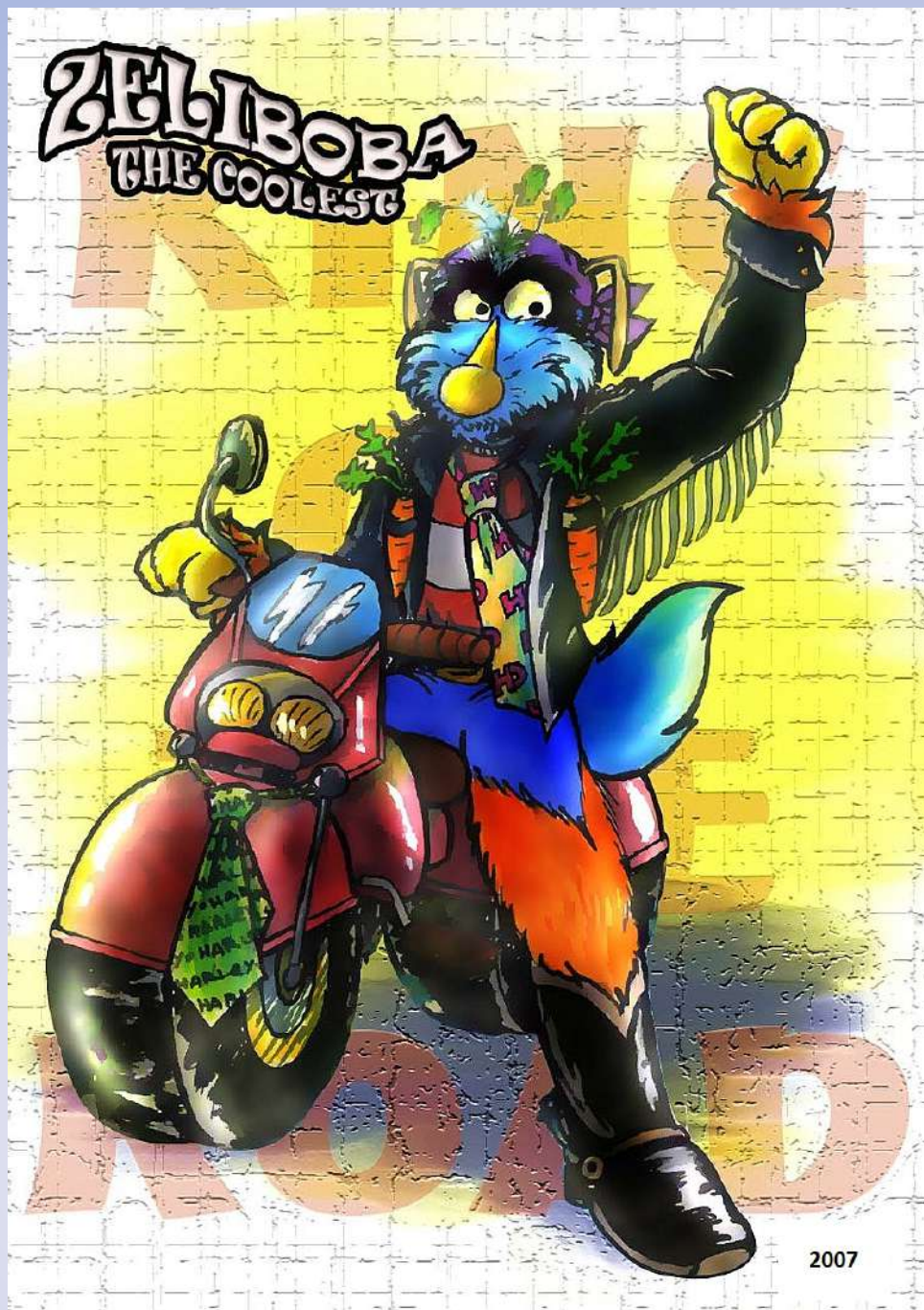
* The little, black-and-white cartoon bobcat girl is me :)
That's how I look when around the Sesame Muppets and other favorite toons.



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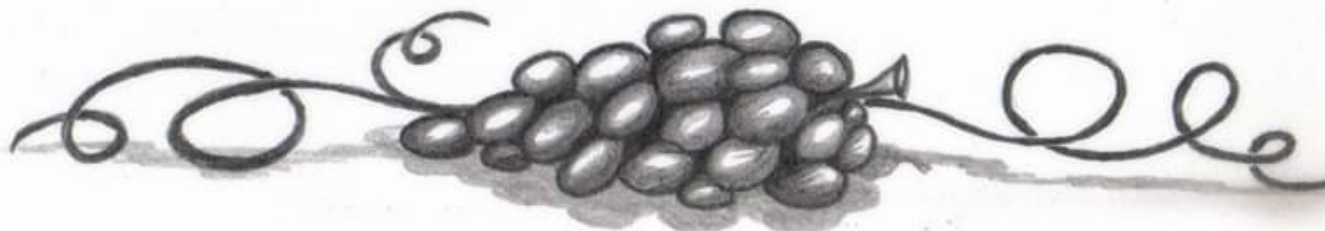
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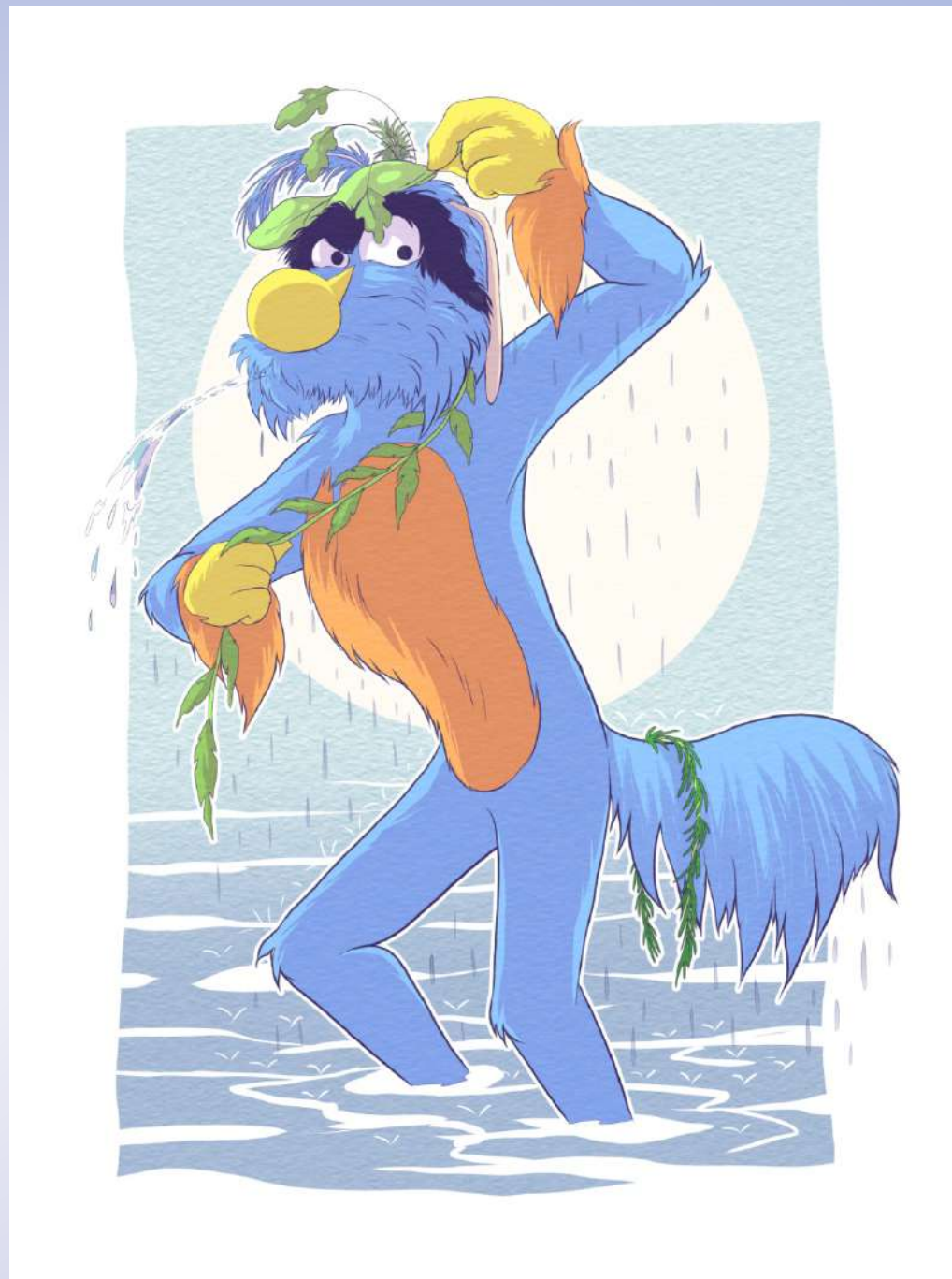
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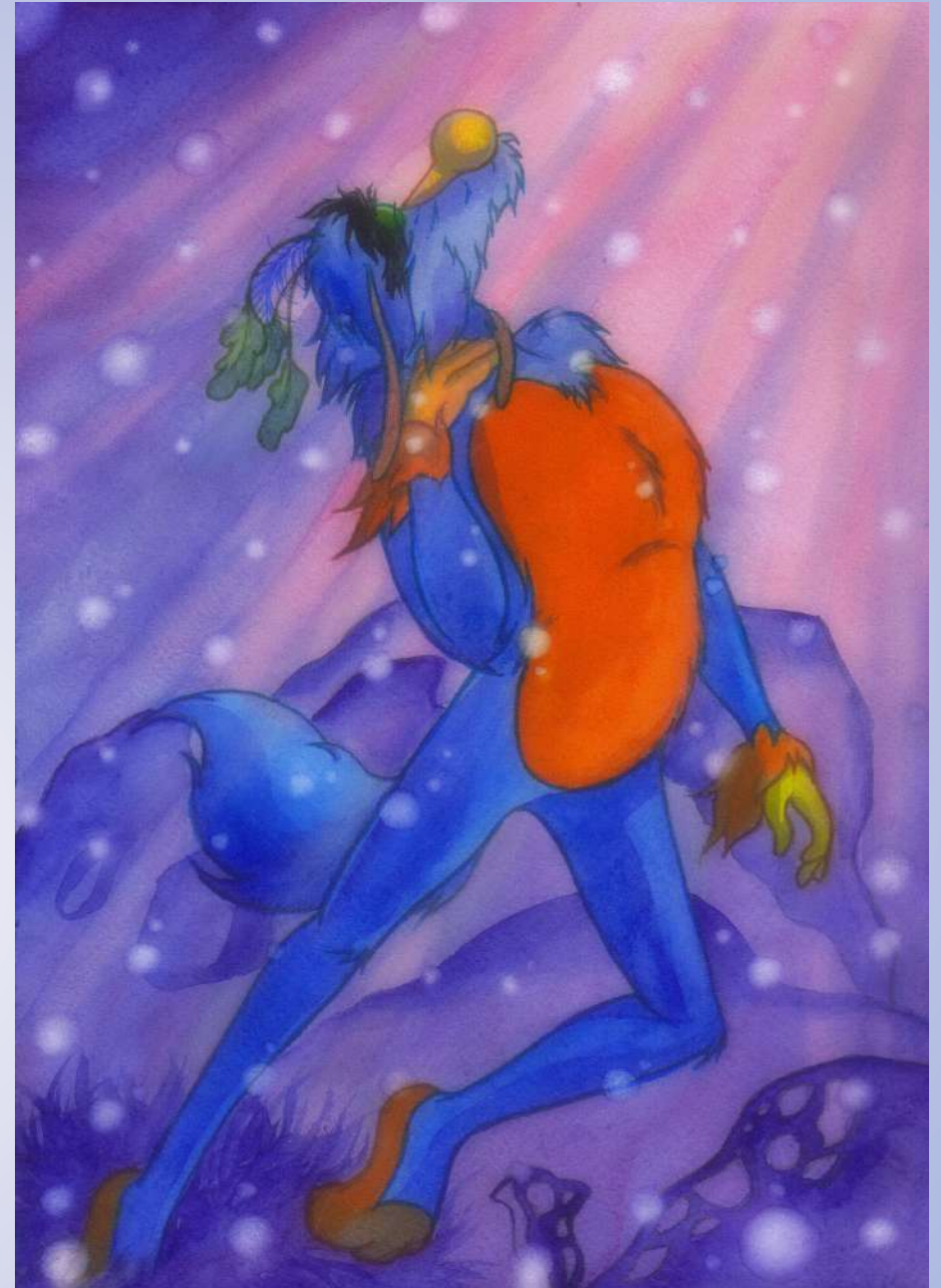
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A huge THANK YOU
to guys from MuppetCentral
and DeviantArt
who had seen and commented
on some of these old fanarts,
and Mr. Christie himself.

Expect fanarts featuring
The Dvorovoi As He Is –
soon. :)

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azure-mischief