

## **Sam Greene**

she / her

12/15/1953

I wanted to go to art school, but my parents forbade me to go into art because it was not a career in which one made money. I got my degree in graphic design. I made money. But I wasn't always happy with the projects I was working on. I had to wait until just after 911, when our internet advertising company went bust. I was out on the 13th layoff. It was then that my career as an artist began.

For years, I had my own business in graphic design and illustration, and I created a great deal of personal work as well. My clients included the New York Times, New York Botanical Gardens, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Nickelodeon, M&M Mars, The American Museum of Natural History, and many educational publishers. I established myself in New York City as a nature and science illustrator.

In 2018, I relocated to Minnesota to marry an old college boyfriend who had moved to MN for a job. It was in Minnesota that I finally gave myself permission to work on my own art, not commercial projects, but my own ideas and subject matter. And I started to work in a new 3D medium—polymer clay.

### Submission 1: *Tibetan Gothic*

"Tibetan Gothic" is a parody of Grant Wood's "American Gothic." I'm very inspired by costumes and masks used in Tibetan religious rituals. The apron-wearing female Buddha holds a butter churner, and her partner wears an animal mask and a farmer's overalls. On the Buddha's chest is the symbol for "om."

### Submission 2: *B is for Buddhess*

I adore Buddhas of the Qing Dynasty. And as a science and nature illustrator, I am fascinated by the exotic creatures of the earth, like axolotls. This piece is called "Buddha's Little Helper" or "B is for Buddhess". The little helper at left is created out of a photo of the inside my eye taken at the eye doctor. I am fond of juxtaposing items that do not seem to fit together, yielding an element of the surreal.

### Submission 3: *the Class*

Much of my work focuses on my spiritual journey. For several years, I studied meditation with three beloved teachers twice a week. This image depicts the students as animals and vegetables dressed in the style of old fairytales. Our teacher looks down on us from the sky. I hoped to convey the magical quality of our classes.