

Anastasia Baranova

Artist Statement

My BFA thesis defense is a game pitch designed to educate players about the little-known yet rich culture of the Buryat (Mongolian/Siberian) culture in the 1600-1800s, and creatively manifest certain spiritual aspects of their practiced religion (shamanism) and their folklore through the modern media of gaming.

As an illustrator who is interested in developing concept art, the biggest element in the creative process involves taking inspiration from the real world. I have always had an interest in history, especially the earlier history of humanity and its culture as it evolved into what we as a world share today. In my BFA, I apply the culture of the Buryat culture and faith in the time where the practiced religion was shamanism, and I aim to use these real-world references and studies to influence my creative renderings of my protagonist, as well as the adversaries she has to face in the context of my game pitch. A part of my inspiration for using the Buryat faith stems from my general interest in Siberian/Russian indigenous groups. The Buryat happen to live next to the deepest lake in the world, Lake Baikal, which has its fair share of endemic animals. I aim to use these attributes in my BFA as well. Furthermore, there is a lot of creative potential in visualizing the folklore and religious stories that would be a fun way to educate the player as they have fun playing the game. Overall, the intention of my BFA is to bring attention to the life of the Nomadic Buryats and more importantly how their shamanistic faith was a huge part of their life, while designing and taking creative liberty with some of the more mythological parts they believed in.

ALTANA



Altana is the main character in my story. She is 17 and still learning to be a shaman under her dad.



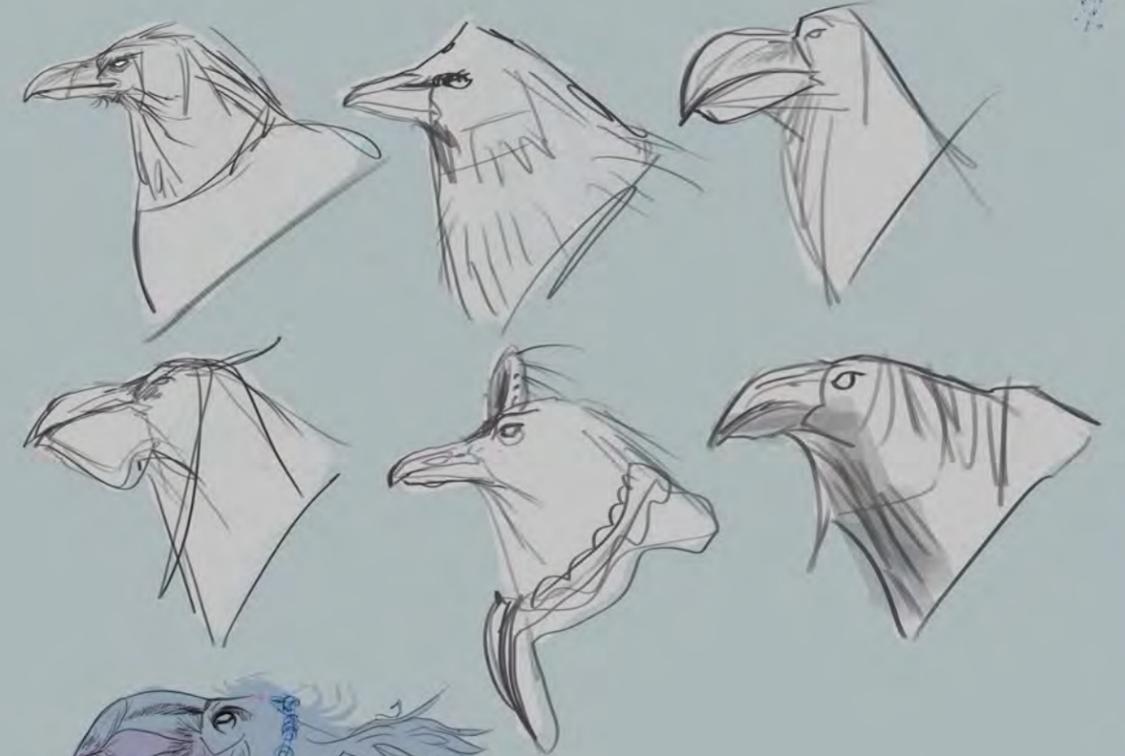
ERZENI



Erzeni is the village Shaman. He is Altana's father and is beginning to show her the ways of this life. Erzeni is careful and enjoys relaxing when he can. He is a very knowledgeable shaman.



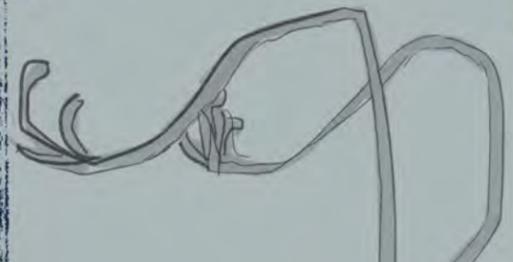
KUTKH



OD-EMEE



BAJAN-AMI



SU-ADA



UGUTE-NOYON

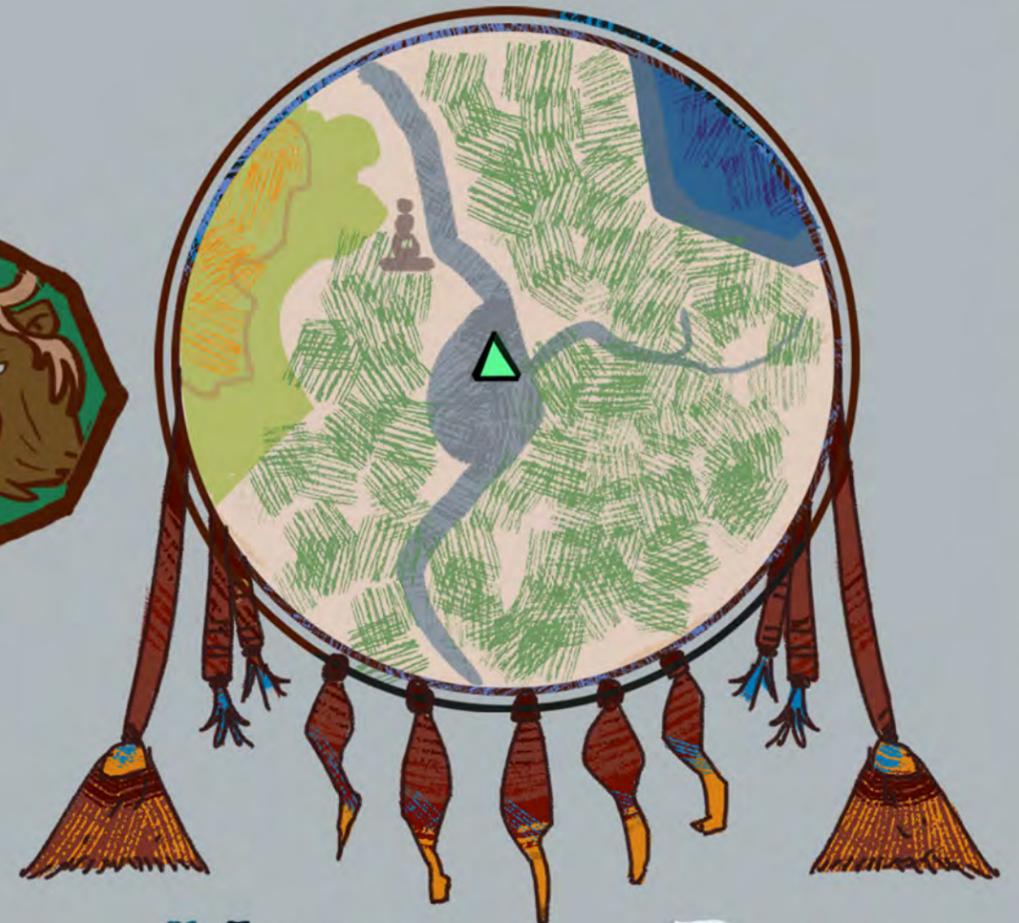
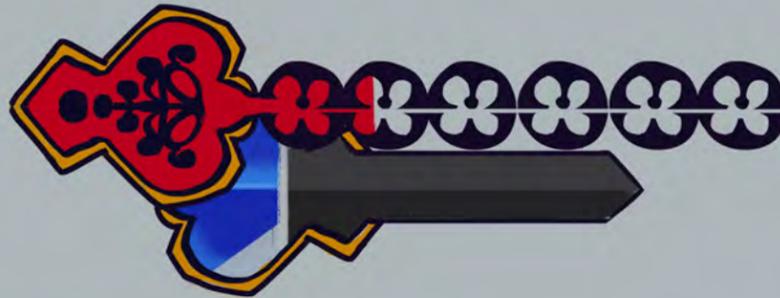
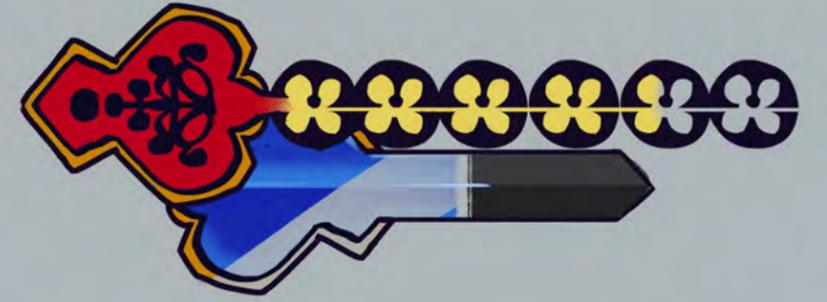
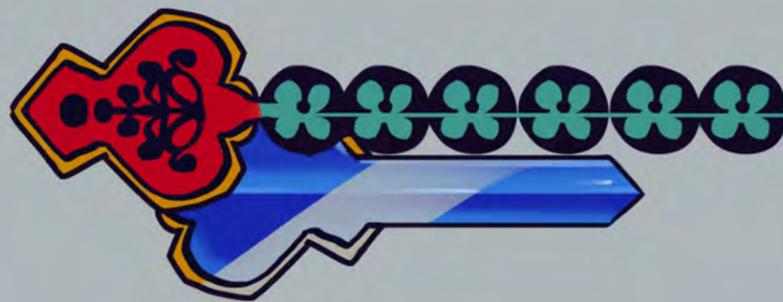


LUSUD-KHAN





HUD-ASSETS



KHAN OF BAIKAL

