During my fall semester I focused on the market of Visual Development storytelling, and worked with creating 6 finished pieces of work that help aid in visual color key storytelling for the animated TV and Movie. I worked on *Blooma* focusing on the Colorkey section of the animation pipeline, that helps with creating a mood and function to the story. Pre animation Visual storytelling is so important for the animators to see, so I worked on the story *Blooma* to show my skill set of using color, lighting, texture, mood and form to create an appealing set of work for an animator to look at for mood and story. The story of *Blooma* follows the journey of Ari and Blooma. Ari finds that her mom's shop might be closing down due to unitrests from the community due to the rise of online flower markets. Blooma appears from Ari's tears in the night, and plans to help Ari if she can return Blooma safely to the flower kingdom. Creating an appealing story was super important to me, as the market for Visual Development is very competitive, so I found myself looking at ways to stand out from others competing for these limited jobs in the industry. Understanding simplifying shapes and being able to use color successfully to capture and create emotions was my biggest takeaway from this project. After graduation, I plan to use these pieces for my Visual Development as well as create more. I'll be applying to many different studios such as Netflix, Dreamworks, Disney TV Animation and Cartoon Network.

Over the Spring semester, I created a picture book for all ages that deals with the topic grief after the death of a childhood cat. Winter break was a time for me to reflect on my own personal grief, and research how others also react when faced with a big death, whether animal or human. Picture books dealing with grief or death are not a new concept in the picture book industry. I gained inspiration for my picture book *Whisker Memories* from the picture book, *Duck, Death, and the Tulip* by Wolf Erlbruch. As well as the poem, *The Rainbow Bridge*, which is given to families who are dealing with their pets dying. When looking into other picture books dealing with death, many of them were comforting, however, they tended to stay more soft and subtle with colors or details. When working on *Whisker Memories*, the most important aspect to my story was creating a change in color throughout the story, these shifts in color can be seen from the first end pages, to the very final end pages. The story follows a subtle color change from a very sad blueish green, to a very bright rainbow of color the viewer can feel comforted by. After graduation I plan to apply to agencies that deal with picture book illustrators, and look into a publishing agency that can help aid me in my journey to publishing *Whisker Memories.*
Hello! welcome to my BFA of Bloomma & Whisker Memories
A visual development body of work created to help a story in color keys / lighting design. To help progress visual narrative in an animated movie.

In my thesis for *Blooma*, I wanted to experiment with dramatic colors and light to show a range of emotions for my characters. Ever since junior year I realized I loved working with more complex ideas of color. Light can add so much more mood and story to a body of work, especially in Visual Development.

Companies always need someone to help solve the problem of lighting and color with story. This job for the vis dev team can last for the whole production.
Ari, the daughter of a flower shop owner. Tragically, finds the flowers are beginning to not sell due to a new delivery service that sells the same local flowers as Ari’s mothers shop. Ari is a book smart girl who has been accepted to many top universities, but with the lack of business at the shop, her mother breaks it to her that her university experience might not happen. On the night of the full moon, Ari sits in her mothers shop cutting flowers and finds herself crying alone on the floor. As the sun rises, Ari hears snoring in the shop, she peaks behind the large potted plants and sees an odd stranger resting on the floor. In shock, Ari wakes the stranger to find that she is a flower princess named Blooma. Blooma requests that Ari helps her on her journey home. Ari declines the offer, but Blooma makes a deal and asks Ari what she wants most in life. Ari explains her situation and the deal is set, if Ari can successfully aid Blooma back to her kingdom, Ari can receive her wish of wealth for college, as well as weekly shipments of rare flowers from Bloomas kingdom. The story then follows both Blooma and Ari traveling to unknown and dangerous lands.
Blooma Character Development
Color Moods and Palettes
And that concludes *Blooma!*
Thesis

A 32 page fictionional picture book that explores the topic of cat death and the process of complex emotions of grief after death shown through form and color changes.
The culprit for this project
Whisker Memories is a picture book that deals with the interpersonal relationship between the unnamed main character and the death of her childhood cat. In the beginning, she has to cope with the fresh and rough feelings of grief. But as the story progresses, she finds herself learning it’s okay to be sad remembering a lost pet. The story follows a progression of colors to show sadness, grief, and acceptance through a spectrum of colors. The story ends with the girl adopting a new cat and remembering that her old cat will always have a place with in her heart.
Book flip through
Whisker Memories

In Memory of Lola
My best friend left me.
Tearfully surrounding you,
We waited for you to pass

Giving you final scratches before your new journey
As I watched you pass onto your new journey,
tears drowned me in sorrow.
I felt embarrassed crying, talking, and asking for help.

A piece of my heart broke.
One day, we may meet over the rainbow bridge. However, the time is not now.
Full of warmth,
I wonder what you’re doing
with this new journey.

I hope your climbing the highest trees

Laying in the warm sun

And catching up with old and new friends
Hoping can only make the heart feel so much better.

Life continues, but I still long for you to come back.
I rejected the thought of letting someone fill the missing part of my heart, I feared I’d forget you.
Until one day, I see a bright new face looking for a home
They may not be like you,

But your spot hasn’t been taken in my heart. They have created a new spot in my heart.

They may not play like you,

They may not be as calm as you.
You have moved over the rainbow bridge, watching over me and my new friend.

Time has healed my heart. But it doesn’t mean I’ve forgotten you.
When a life is lost, it’s okay to keep the missing part of them in your heart while accepting a new life.
### StoryBoards

**Whisker Memories**

It's a story about a girl and her cat, Whisker. Whisker has passed away, leaving the girl with memories of their time together.

1. **Beginning**: The girl is sad and misses Whisker. She draws pictures of Whisker and herself together.
2. **Mid**: The girl visits Whisker's grave and talks to him, sharing stories and memories.
3. **End**: The girl realizes that Whisker will always be with her, in her heart and memories.

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**Life Lessons**

1. **Loyalty**: Whisker was always there for the girl, and she learned to love and respect him.
2. **Responsibility**: Caring for Whisker taught her to take care of others.
3. **Comfort**: Whisker provided a constant source of comfort and companionship.

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**Conclusion**: The girl learns that losing someone is inevitable, but the memories and love remain forever.

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**Illustrations**

- Whisker playing with a ball of yarn.
- The girl hugging a cartoon cat.
- Whisker's grave with flowers.
- A rainbow in the sky with a cat silhouette.

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**Quotes**

- "Life is short, be with those who make it longer.
- "Love is not about how long you've been together, but about how long you've been together, loving each other.
- "Memories are what make life worth living.

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**32 Page StoryBoards**
Coloring/Texture Process
With loss comes Inspiration to help

I sadly did not even think about creating this story, until I faced the hardships of a pet death over winter break going into spring semester. I lost my childhood cat Lola to liver failure. This death impacted me very hard. The cat who had been with me through all my life battles left me to be in a better place. I found myself constantly Googling ways for myself to feel better, or to find anyone going through the same internal tragedy as me. This led me into thinking about ways I can help someone read through these hard emotions of grief in a picture book format. Picture books are a universal tool in communication and telling stories that many viewers can relate or learn from. Whisker Memories was inspired by the picture book *Duck, Death and the Tulip* by Wolf Erlbruch. As well as the poem, *The Rainbow Bridge* families tend to receive after burial or cremation of their lost pets.
What's next for my journey as an Illustrator?

Step One: Cry because I'll miss the community at CIA

After graduation, I plan to spend most of my time looking into agencies and studios located all over the country. If I get a spot at agency, I hope to be able to send a book dummy of *Whisker Memories* to publishing companies;

I plan to create more Visual Development work to apply for jobs at Netflix, Dreamworks, Disney TV, etc...

I'll miss my time greatly at CIA, but the next steps in life seem hopeful as a grow everyday as an artist.
Thank you all for attending my BFA presentation.
Questions or Comments?