



Burning Incense ■

**Based on Elieen Chang's classic story
"Aloeswood Incense: The First Brazier"**

Today's story centers around a 17-year-old girl we'll call Miss Wei Long. Due to her family's decline, she was sent to live with her aunt, Mrs. Liang, at her parents' request. Mrs. Liang was a shrewd woman who had married Mr. Liang, a powerful and wealthy businessman, becoming his fourth wife when she was young. After being disowned by her father for tarnishing the family honor, a few years later, following Mr. Liang's death, Mrs. Liang cleverly secured most of the inheritance. Her father then believed that his daughter should now rely on her aunt, which puzzled Wei Long greatly.

Date: December, 2024

Medium: Four illustrations **Tools:** Procreate



The storyline ■

As she approached her aunt's villa, Wei Long straightened her hair in front of the glass door before knocking. "Miss, please come this way," she was greeted upon entering. The moment she stepped inside, she was astonished by the opulence: dazzling crystal chandeliers, rich red silk curtains, and a cloisonné vase on the floor. Laughter and chatter could be heard from behind the curtains in the living room. Curiosity got the better of her, and she sneaked a peek through the corner of the curtain to see her aunt surrounded by a group of men, engaging in merry banter. Quickly dropping the curtain, she felt embarrassed and thought, "Isn't this just like selling oneself?" A sense of revulsion welled up within her.

■ Twisted space

To highlight the other protagonist—her aunt—the originally normal living room space is turned upside-down, focusing on the scene unfolding on the sofa: the aunt is being mobbed by a group of men, while the lavish decor of the room recedes into mere backdrop around the sofa, creating a sense of spatial disarray and hinting at the chaos in the aunt's life.



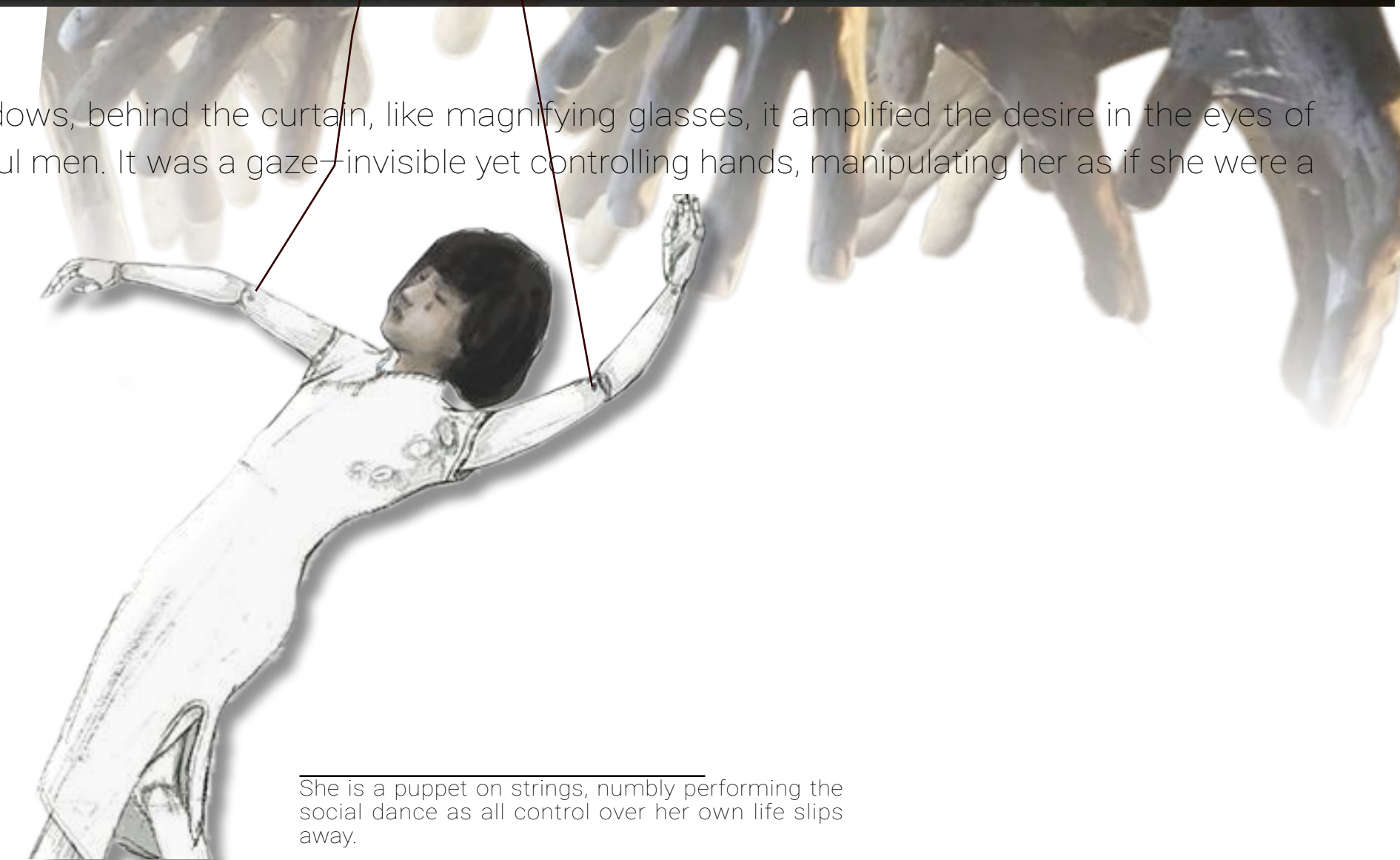
The normal vision





Despite her disgust for such behavior, she seemed powerless at the moment. However, as time passed in her aunt's home, she slowly realized that her aunt had taken her in with the intention of grooming her into the next socialite, ensuring her own connections and resources would not be lost. As a student, she neglected her studies and was forced to attend parties, clinking glasses with various men. Sometimes, she felt as if she were merely a shell, gradually becoming numb. However, she also discovered that by simply chatting and drinking with them, she could maintain a comfortable lifestyle. Thus, she began to actively engage with these men, moving through her aunt's "guests" daily, sidelining her once highly valued education.

In the shadows, behind the curtain, like magnifying glasses, it amplified the desire in the eyes of the powerful men. It was a gaze—invisible yet controlling hands, manipulating her as if she were a puppet.

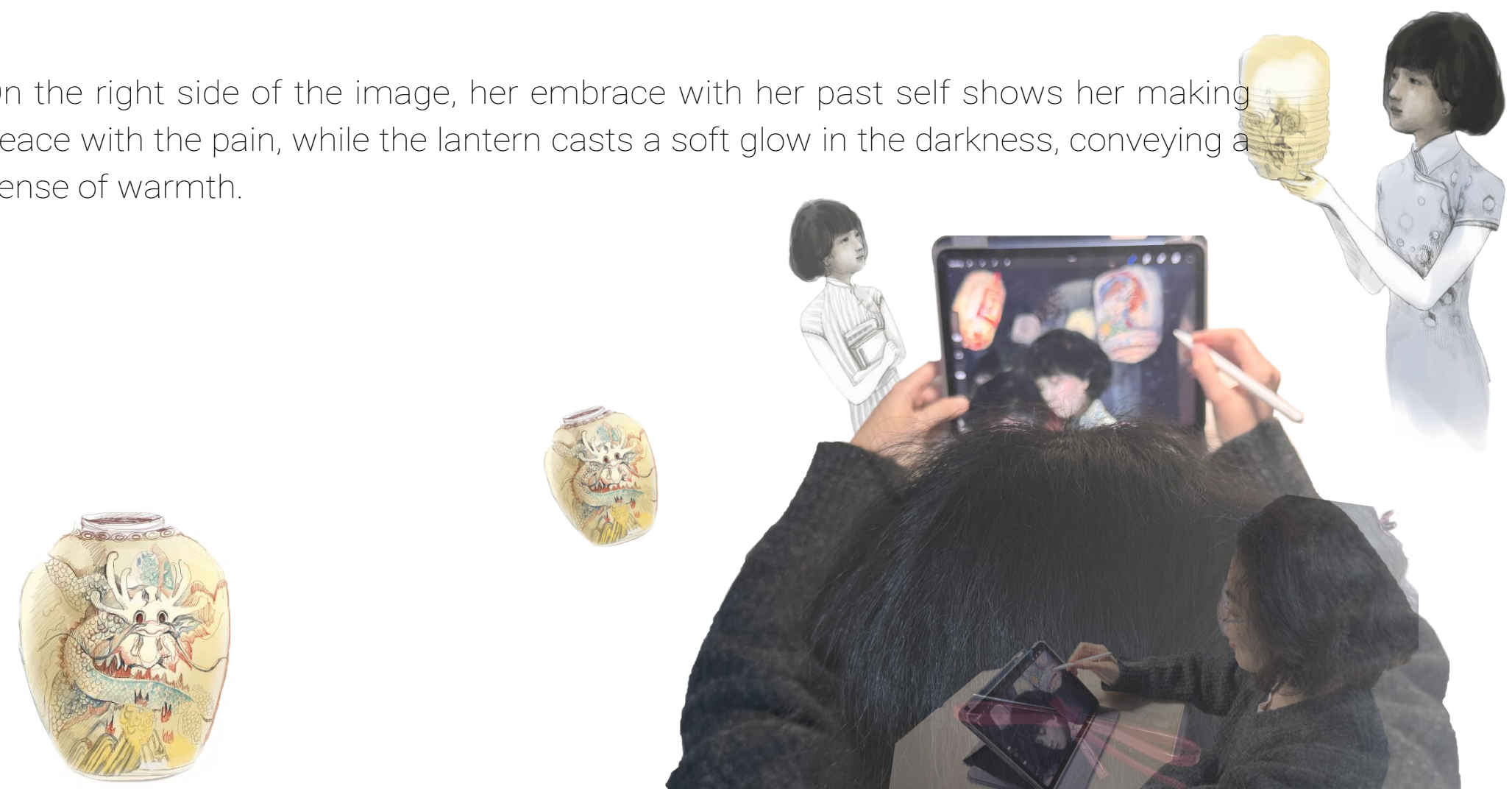


She is a puppet on strings, numbly performing the social dance as all control over her own life slips away.



But one day, after several of her aunt's guests severed ties with her—perhaps because her aunt had aged and lost her charm—her once sharp and carefree demeanor seemed to vanish instantly. Her aunt's every move was actually controlled by these "guests." This time she suddenly came to her senses, sitting on the bed and listening to the still lively but not as vibrant chatter outside. It felt like a fleeting dream. Although she now seemed to be adorned in splendor, she felt as though her autonomy had vanished alongside it. She saw the dusty books at the corner of the table and felt a glimmer of hope within her. She realized that her future depended on herself. From that day on, she began to study hard again, declining invitations to parties and gatherings. She started paying attention to social issues and actively engaged in charitable activities, no longer content with just seeking pleasure for herself. Gradually, her aunt grew dissatisfied with her.

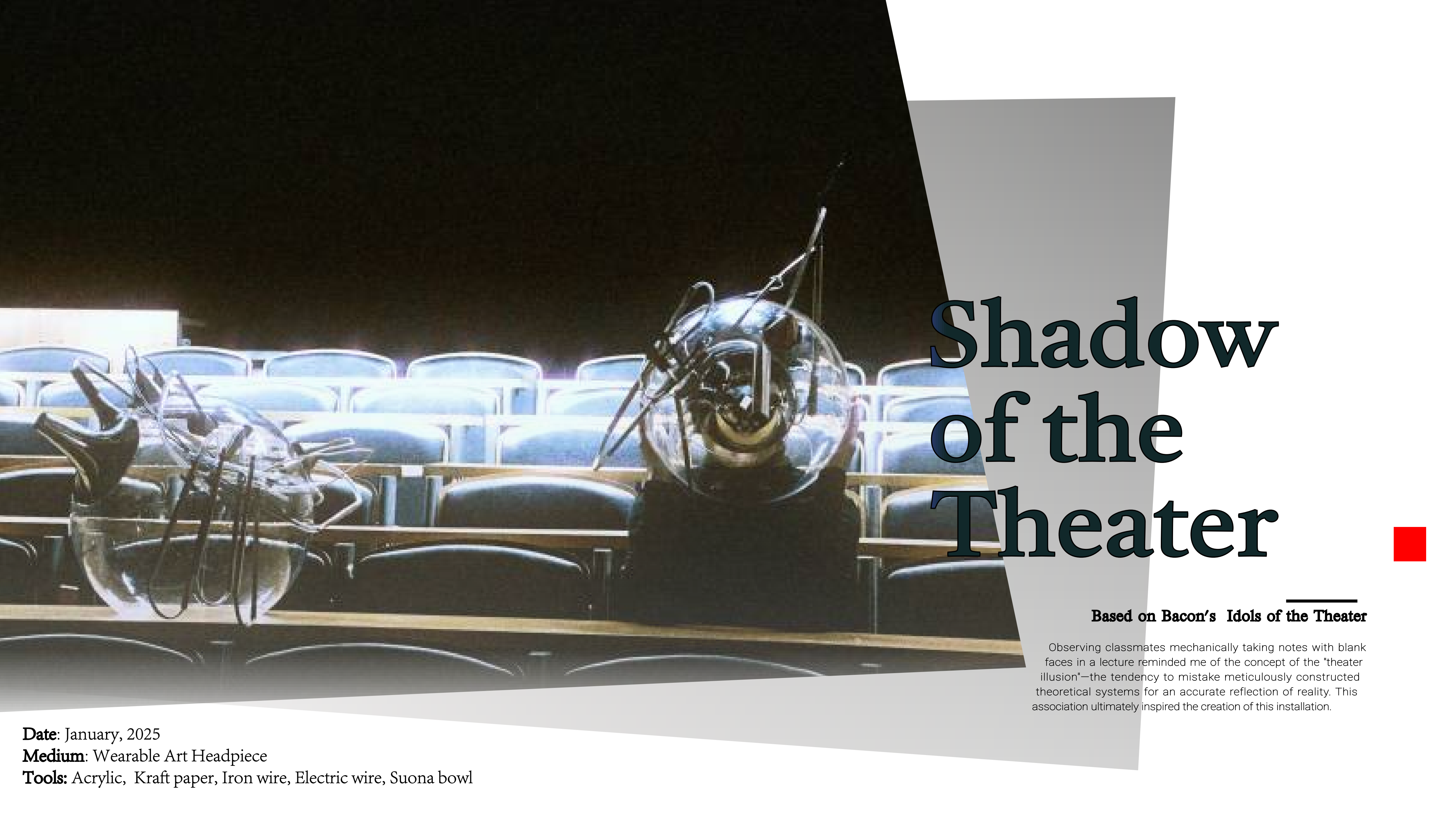
On the right side of the image, her embrace with her past self shows her making peace with the pain, while the lantern casts a soft glow in the darkness, conveying a sense of warmth.





Gradually, she detached herself from the glamorous "world," yet found inner fulfillment through reading and helping others. After graduation, she chose not to return to her hometown, breaking free from her father's control to embark on her own journey. (The kite in the painting suggests an alternative ending: After all, during the Republican era, the economic independence women could achieve was extremely limited. Thus, the kite implies another outcome—while it appears free, having broken from the control of its string (her aunt and father), it must eventually descend to the ground. Without the ability to steer its own course, it reflects the limitations of that era.)





Shadow of the Theater

Based on Bacon's Idols of the Theater

Observing classmates mechanically taking notes with blank faces in a lecture reminded me of the concept of the "theater illusion"—the tendency to mistake meticulously constructed theoretical systems for an accurate reflection of reality. This association ultimately inspired the creation of this installation.

Date: January, 2025

Medium: Wearable Art Headpiece

Tools: Acrylic, Kraft paper, Iron wire, Electric wire, Suona bowl

Inspiration



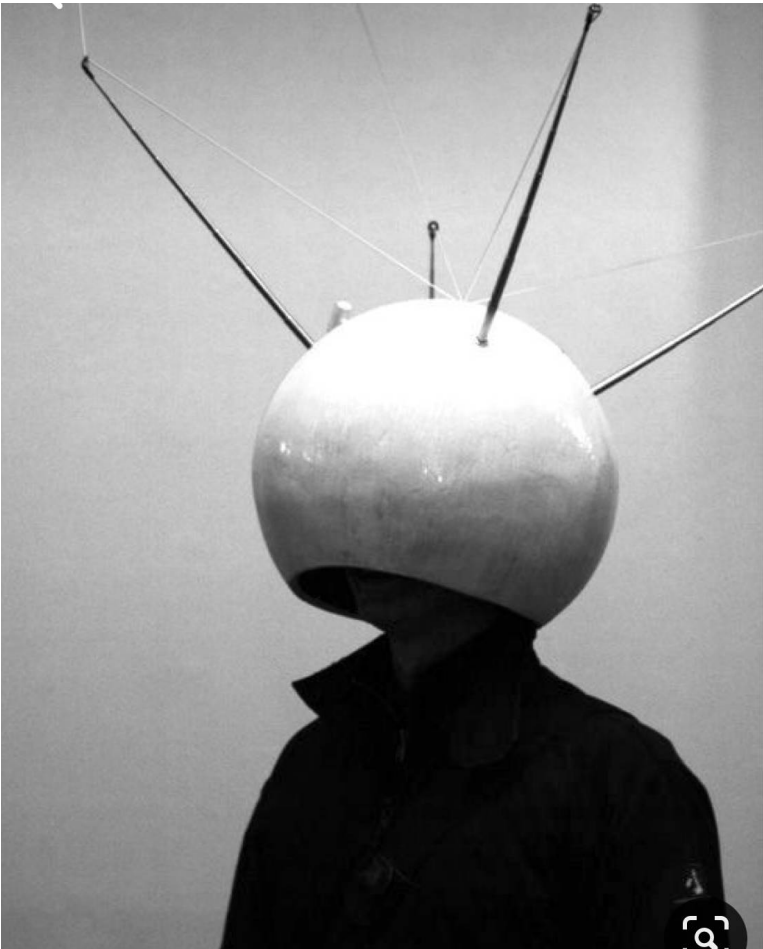
When I attend large public lectures every week, sitting in the classroom, I see many students merely recording the teacher's exact words mechanically and rigidly. This reminds me of the Idols of the Theater, People mistake the intellectual scripts created by predecessors or authorities for reality itself, thereby confining and constraining their own thinking and cognition.

As if sitting in a theater, where the audience can only passively receive what is presented. In such an environment dominated solely by the indoctrination of information, I cannot help but wonder: what is everyone truly thinking and reflecting upon?



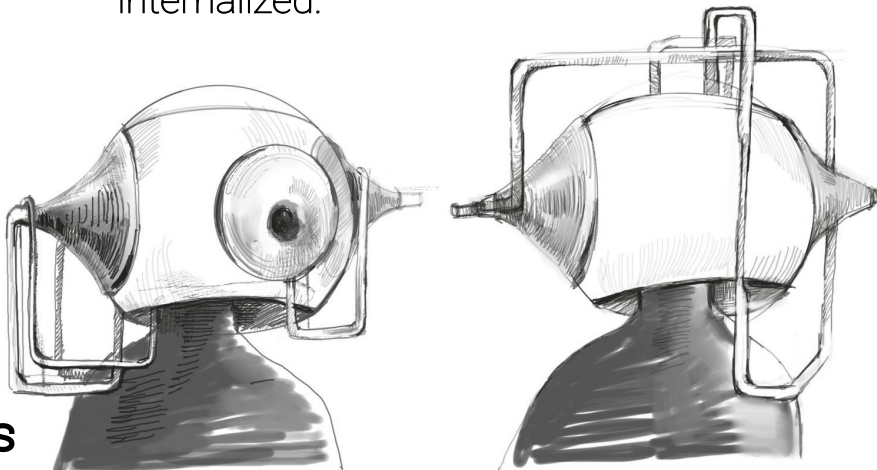
drafts

Meanwhile, in society, people are constantly bombarded with information from media, news, and short videos. Can they still form their own judgments amidst this flood of indoctrination? My hope is that viewing or wearing this device will spark contemplation on our ways of engaging with and internalizing information.



When worn, the device creates a cramped visual space and an entangled horn-like structure, evoking a sense of mental pressure that enhances the feeling of being overwhelmed by imposed information.

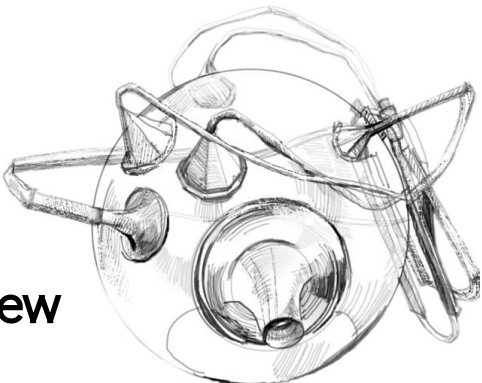
These are the initial design drafts for the headpiece. They incorporate string instrument elements to convey the concept of "instilled sound," while their intricate, tangled complex forms reflect the complexity of the information being internalized.



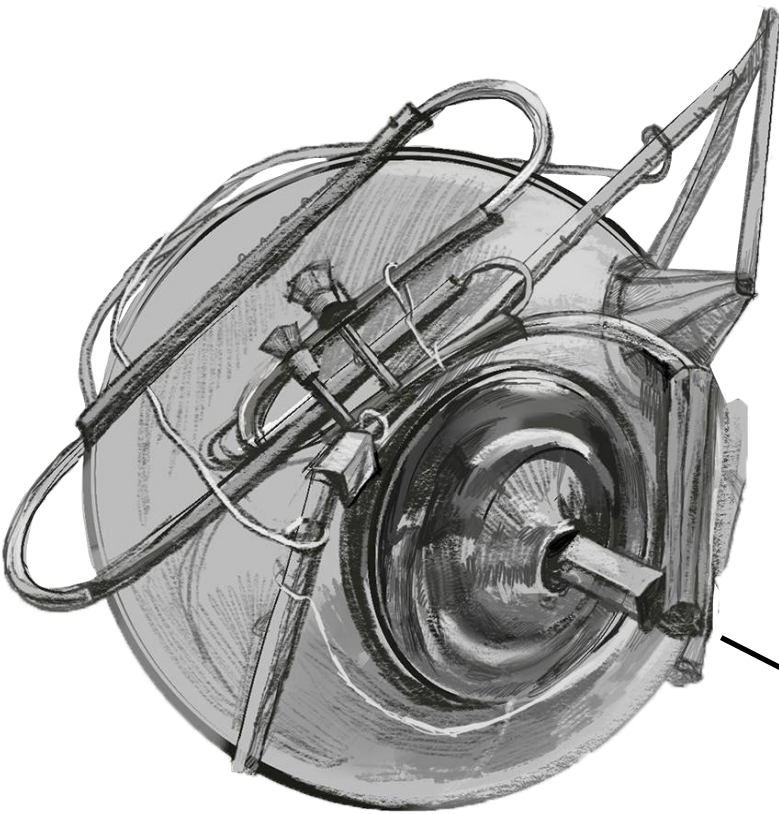
Concept

This work uses a head-mounted installation to explore the formation logic and perceptual consequences of the "passive listener" within contemporary educational contexts and knowledge production systems. The base of the device is an acrylic glass dome — its transparent yet enclosed nature suggests the "visible yet inescapable" cognitive space constructed by modern systems of knowledge. Above it, a structure resembling a string instrument is formed using kraft paper, iron wire, and suona bells, creating a hybrid object between musical instrument, acoustic form, and wearable device. The "audience" implied here is not an aesthetic subject in the traditional sense, but a listening role shaped within institutional settings — one who does not actively participate in generating meaning, but rather serves as a vessel for information, continually receiving, being overwritten, and assimilated. By materializing the imagery of sound, the installation translates the feeling of being "swamped by sound" into a wearable, bodily experience: sound no longer functions as a medium of exchange or inspiration, but becomes an oppressive environmental force, leaving no room for response, judgment, or reflection.

This condition stems from observations in public lecture settings: in highly structured classrooms, some learners mechanically record the instructor's exact words, treating knowledge as reproducible information rather than an intellectual process requiring understanding, questioning, and reconstruction. In such a scenario, the classroom is transformed into a "theater": the teacher, textbooks, and syllabus become an authoritative performance on stage, while learners are confined to the role



side view

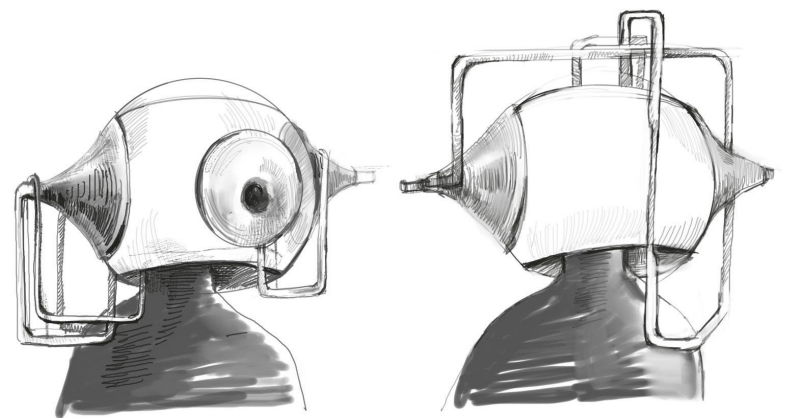


of silent spectators. Authoritative texts, popular theories, and established doctrines are repeated and reproduced, yet seldom subjected to critical discussion. By employing the metaphor of the "theater," the work suggests that when knowledge is delivered through one-way transmission, listening itself can become an act of surrendering agency. If individuals passively accept everything performed before them, the result is not the accumulation of knowledge, but the stagnation of intellectual activity. In such spaces, education no longer encourages inquiry or doubt; instead, through standardized answers, fixed narratives, and established frameworks, thinking is confined to a closed circuit.

The headpiece creates a metaphor for mental occupation, depicting how institutionalized sound traps thought within a "theater," allowing the performance of knowledge to persist unchallenged.



Shooting Location



sketches

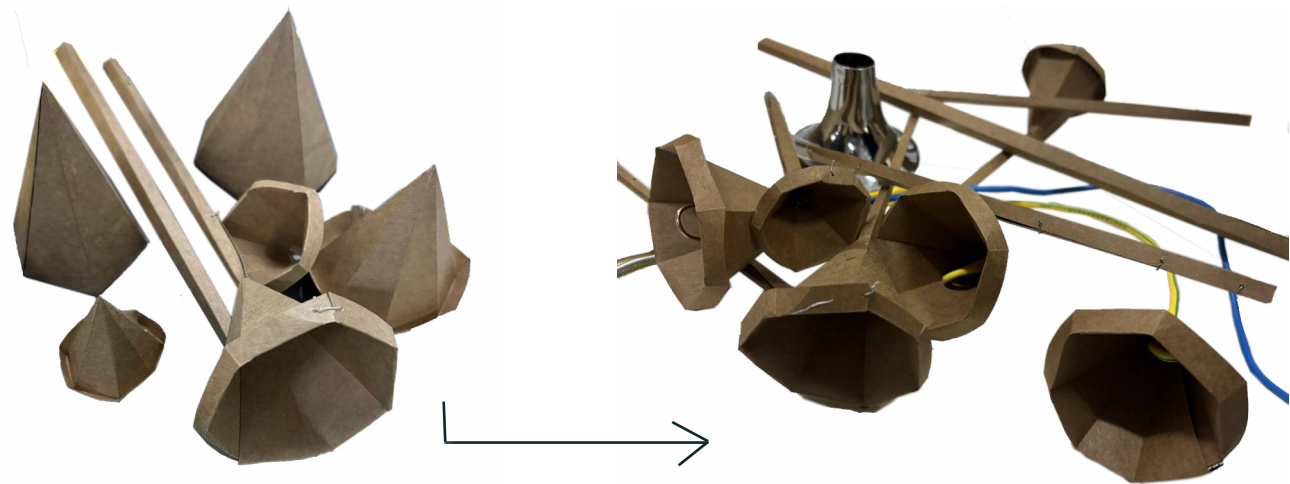
Location Scouting

— The University's Largest Lecture Hall
This space was chosen for its inherent theatrical quality of light, shadow, and scale. It serves as an implicit "stage," the very site where a "suspension of disbelief" is performed daily. Routinely filled with 200-300 students, it provided a vast pool of subjects for observation, which directly inspired this work.

My inspiration sprang from noticing phenomena such as students mechanically transcribing the instructor's exact words. This behavior suggested a process of uncritical absorption—a passive acceptance of external information without active thought, mirroring the unconscious acceptance of a narrative on stage.



Crafting Process



Material Selection

A part of horn section is crafted from kraft paper, chosen for its warm, wood-like hue and natural texture. This creates a deliberate material contrast with the smooth acrylic glass base. The juxtaposition enhances the installation's visual impact.

Technical challenge

The high flexibility of kraft paper made it difficult to adhere neatly with standard glue or tape. To solve this, I fastened it by punching holes and threading iron wire through them. This technique enables complex shaping while adding a deliberate industrial aesthetic.

Incorporating yellow and blue wires introduces vibrant color accents against the kraft paper's muted tone, enhancing visual dynamism. Simultaneously, the wires symbolize information channeled into electronic devices.

Material Pairing

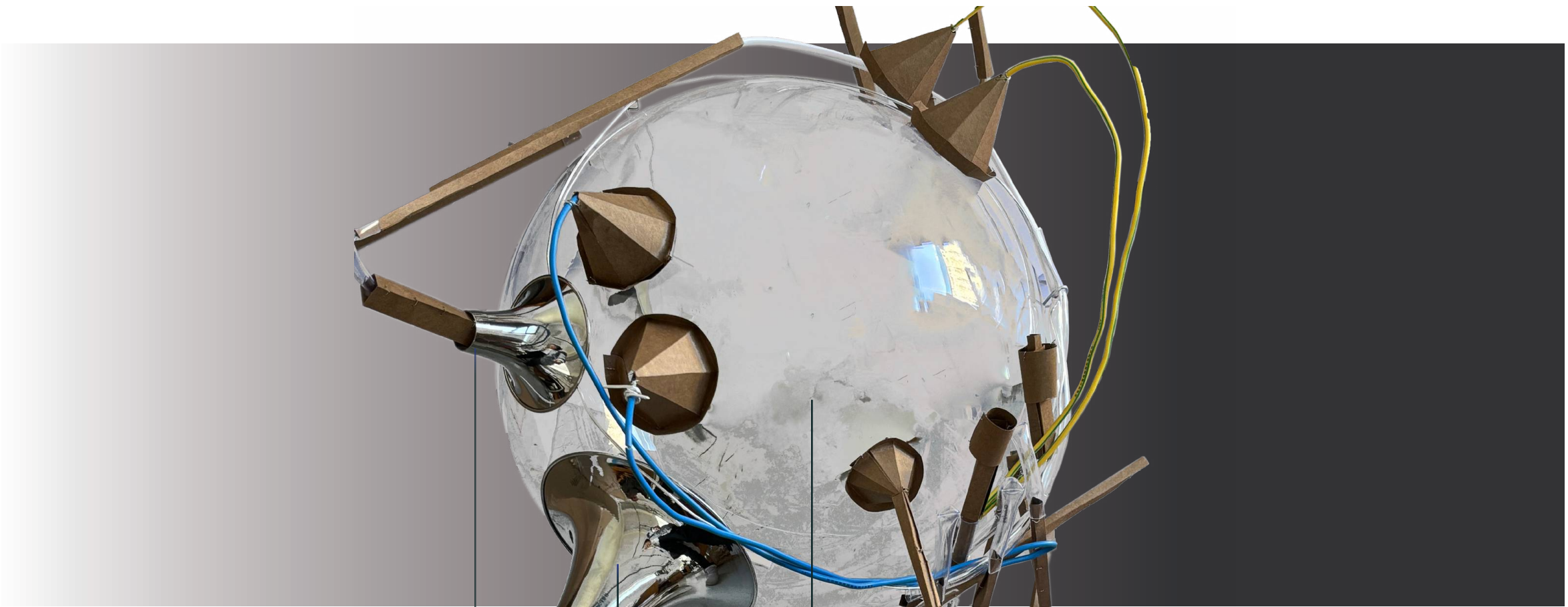
■ Suona bowl

After comparing various horn shapes available on the market, I selected the bell of a suona as the central component of this head-mounted device. I find the shape of the suona bell to be more harmonious with that of the kraft paper horn I created.

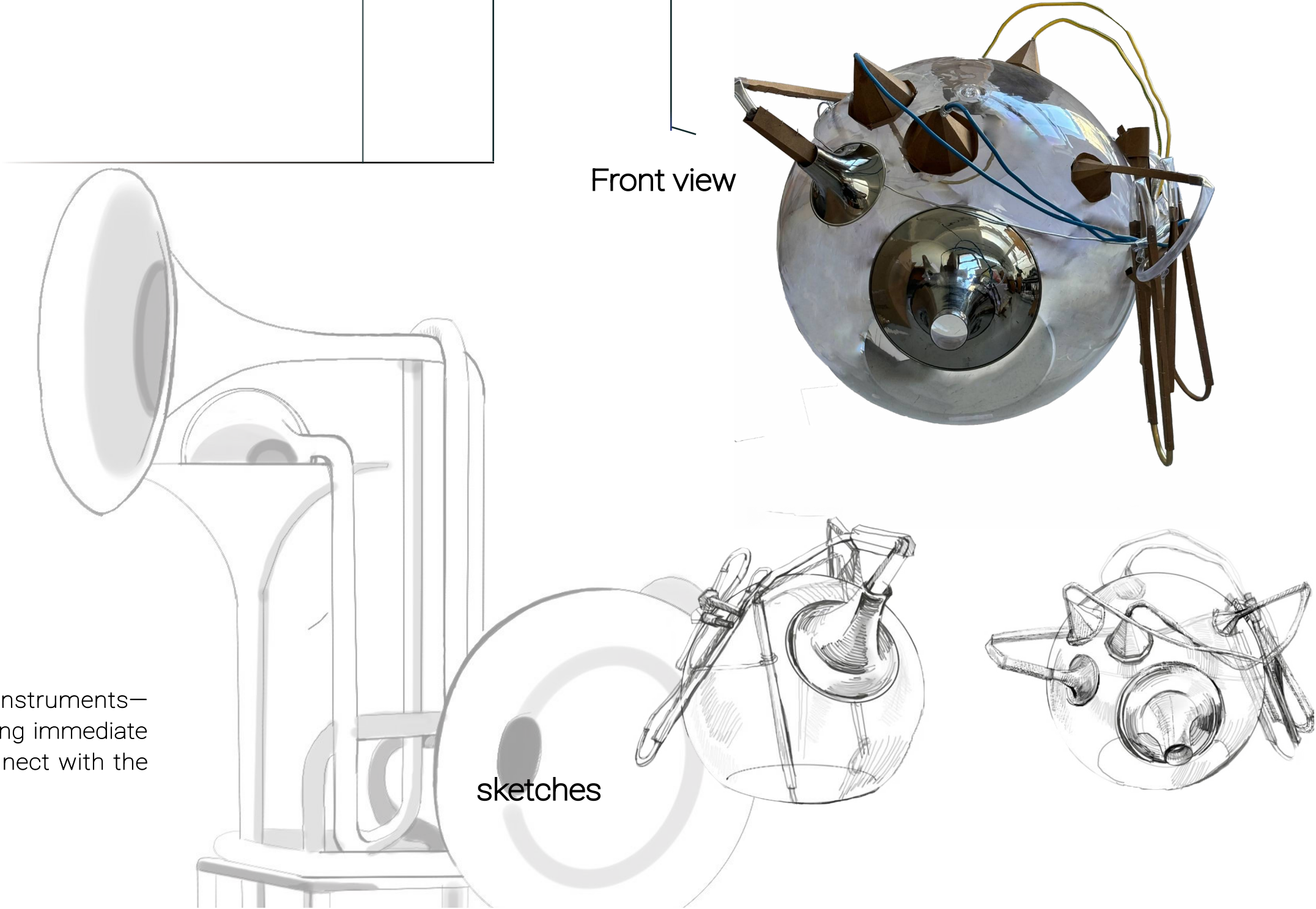
Selected two categories of Suona((the bell of a traditional Chinese wind instrument): White Bowl" Bass in G key, and "White Bowl" Soprano in G key.

The horn's structure retains the iconic features of brass instruments—a U-shaped main body with compact elliptical coils—ensuring immediate recognizability. Its overall form is designed to visually connect with the acrylic base beneath it.

■ Assembled horn components



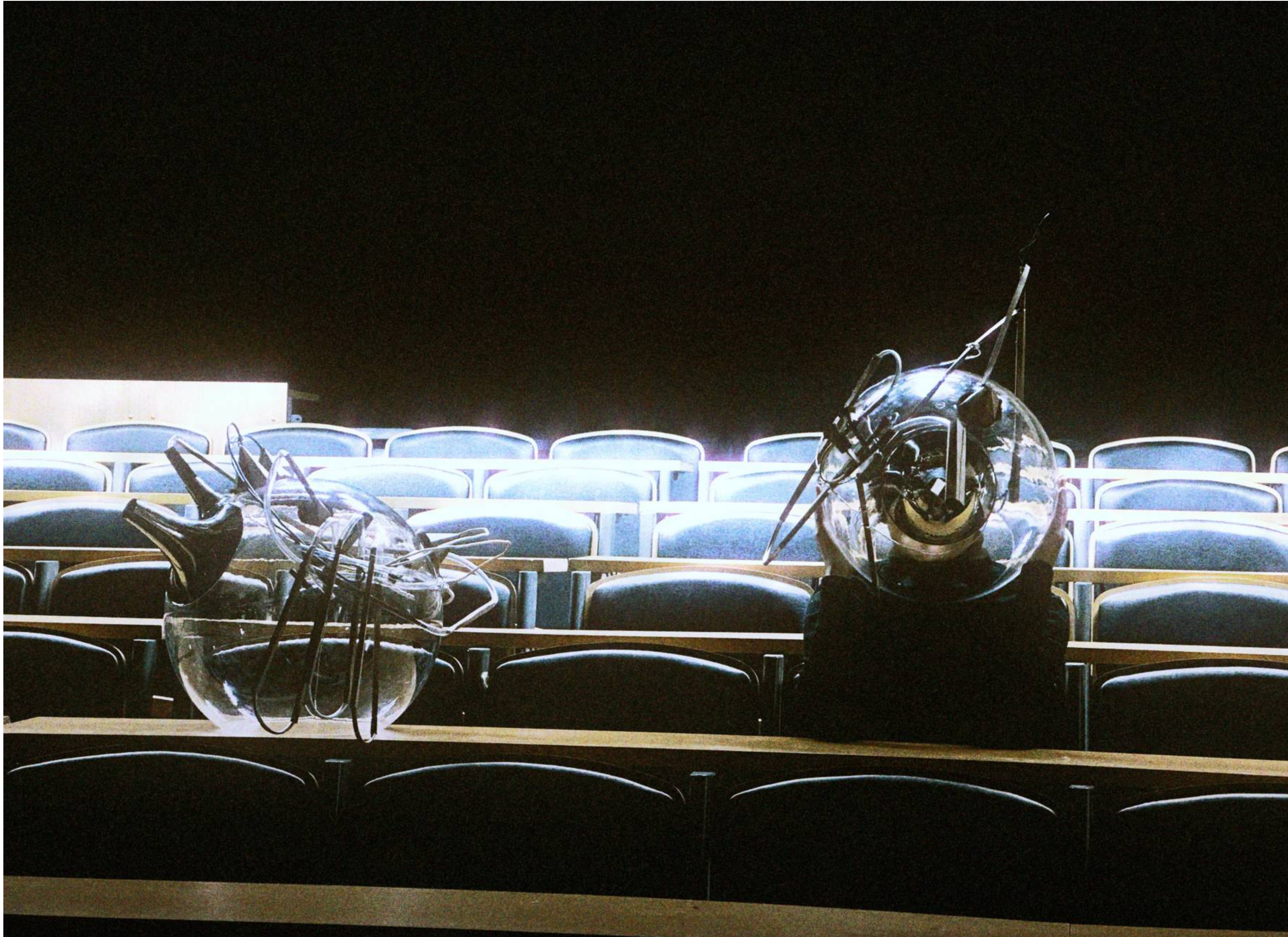
Front view



sketches

Final result presentation

The visual stlye is inspired by The Matrix/
2001 A Space Odyssey





Mr. Rooster

Based on Mr. Rooster's workday

Mr. Rooster works at an aging energy company that failed to transition successfully. Instead of taking responsibility, the boss blames the employees' inefficiency for his own flawed decisions and intensifies surveillance. Mr. Rooster himself becomes a key target of this close watch. Yet he cannot understand why—he knows he has been diligent. In an effort to avoid further scrutiny, he pushes himself to work even harder, day and night. One day, exhausted from his relentless schedule, he falls asleep at his desk...

Date: May, 2025

Medium: Character Design& 3D Digital Art

Tools: Photoshop, Blender

Character design

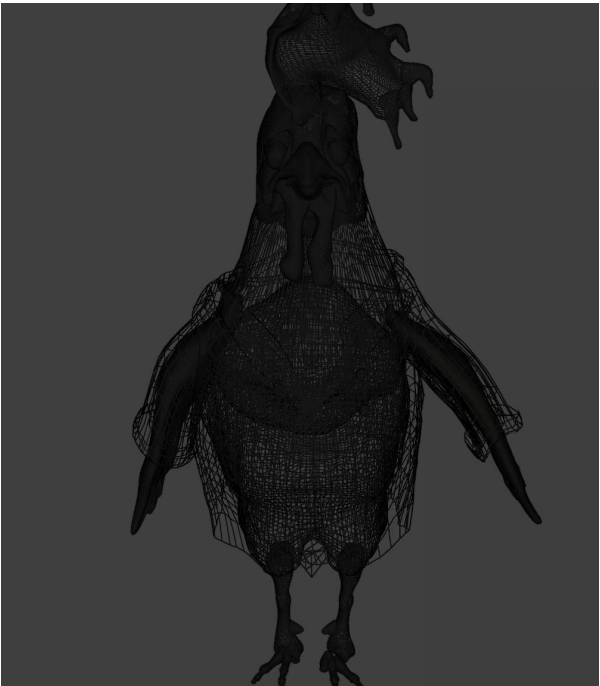
Mr.Rooster

Mr. Rooster is an employee at an aging energy company. The company's transformation has failed, but the boss blames his own poor decisions on the employees' inefficiency. In response, he has intensified surveillance by installing a dense network of monitoring systems next to the desks of key staff for close observation. Mr. Rooster is one of those under such close watch. Yet, he cannot understand why—he knows he has been diligent. To escape this scrutiny, he works even harder, but the situation doesn't seem to improve...

Character Trait

Character Trait: Diligence
Mr. Rooster is inherently hardworking—able to labor from dawn till dusk. This trait draws inspiration from a Chinese idiom ,burning the midnight oil

and rising before dawn. This diligent nature adds a distinct underlying tone to his character: he is exceptionally industrious. It also plants a key point of narrative tension—his very diligence makes him a target for close surveillance, highlighting the distorted and abnormal environment of the company, where hard work is met with suspicion rather than reward.



Modeling and rigging



Side view

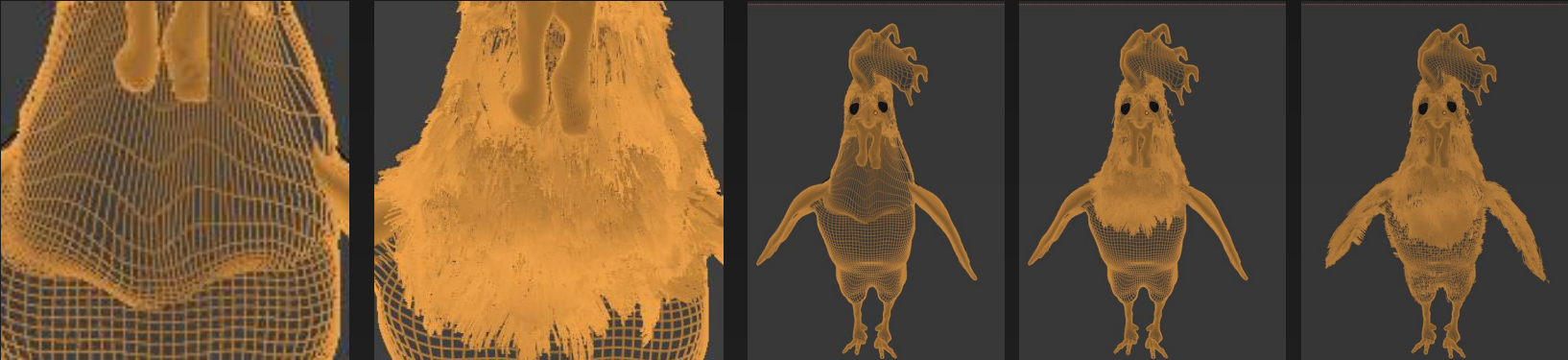
Mr. Rooster's Daily Schedule:

1. Drives the transport vehicle to deliver Energy Cubes between various bases.
2. Distributes the Energy Cubes to respective departments.
3. Processes his own mounting pile of daily tasks.
4. Ends up staying overnight at his workstation if the work remains unfinished.



The old version

Compared to the old version, the new Mr. Rooster model features realistic fur, achieved through Blender's hair particle system. The key was discovering that authentic texture requires layering the fur in distinct sections, from the face to the neck, and then down to the chest, belly, and wings, as shown in the image below.



In the old version, Mr. Rooster's featherless white body blended with the white props, lacking contrast. The clothing used only Blender's cloth simulation,result in uneven edges.

I've applied topological modeling to create clothing that closely fits the body contour with clean edges, including defined collar structures. Separate control rigs were also built for each layered garment to prevent significant clipping during posing and animation.(Clothing Rigging)

Clothing Rigging

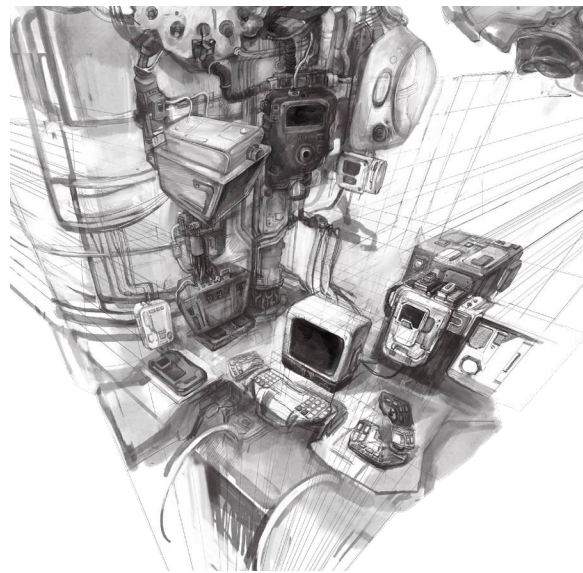


Dress Shirt

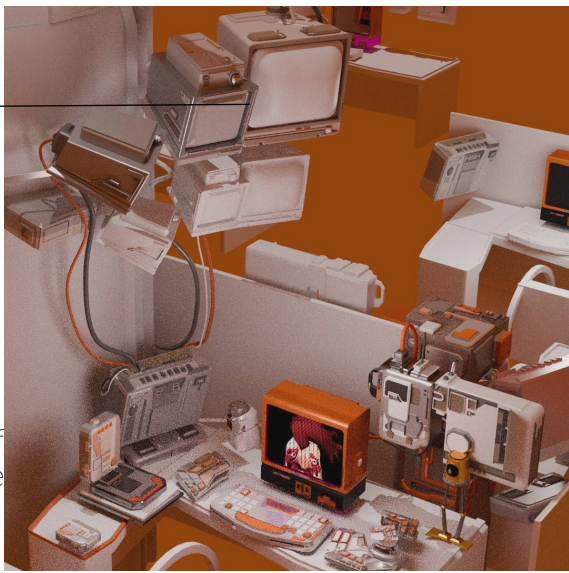


Suit Jacket

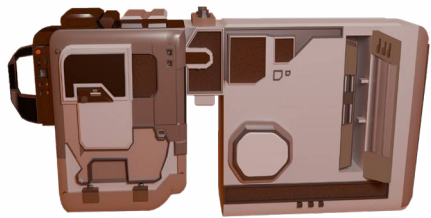
Environmental design



A wall of surveillance screens

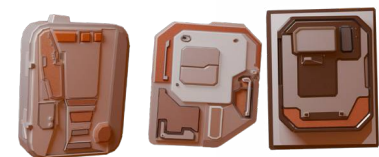


The old version



Memory Buffer

Holds information that are partially read by the computer



Energy Cube

This device stores information. Due to the company computers' insufficient memory, employees must save files onto these Energy Cubes and connect them via cables to access and process their work.



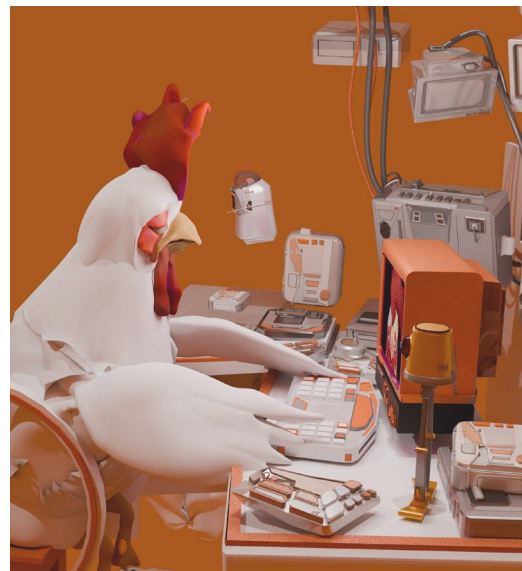
Multi-tier Keyboard

Its extended width accommodates Mr. Rooster's broad wings, while the arrangement of multiple keyboards side by side implies the heavy workload required to handle his tasks efficiently.



Computer

The computers here feature bulky, outdated designs—thick casings that suggest the company provides poor hardware and inadequate infrastructure.

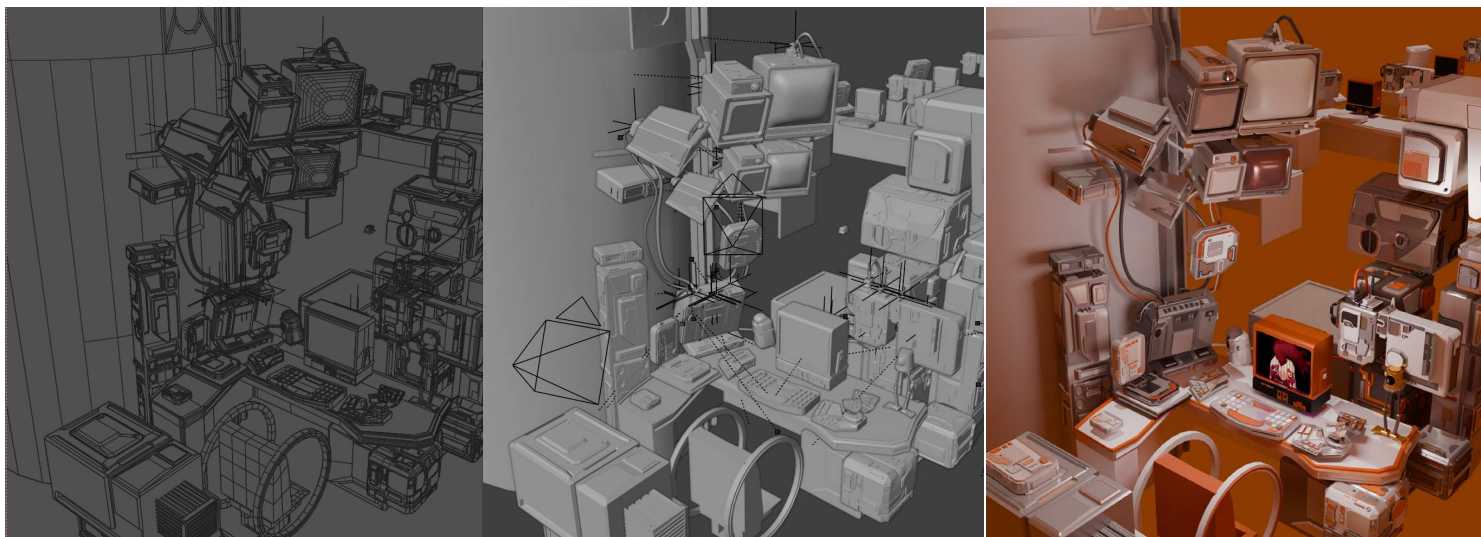


Workspace Redesign

The redesigned workstation replaces the white back panel with layered, dark brown rectangular ones. This integrates Mr. Rooster's white plumage with the orange environment. Also, structural cuts are added to the desk, and its base now features vivid orange floating blocks, enhancing the workspace's unique style.

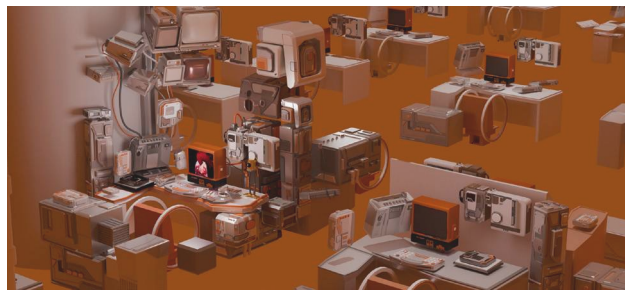


Work Flow



Scene Reference

The crowded office scene in *The Incredibles*, with its cramped cubicles and sense of suffocating helplessness, reminds me of Mr. Rooster. He is also a corporate drone trapped in a similar reality.



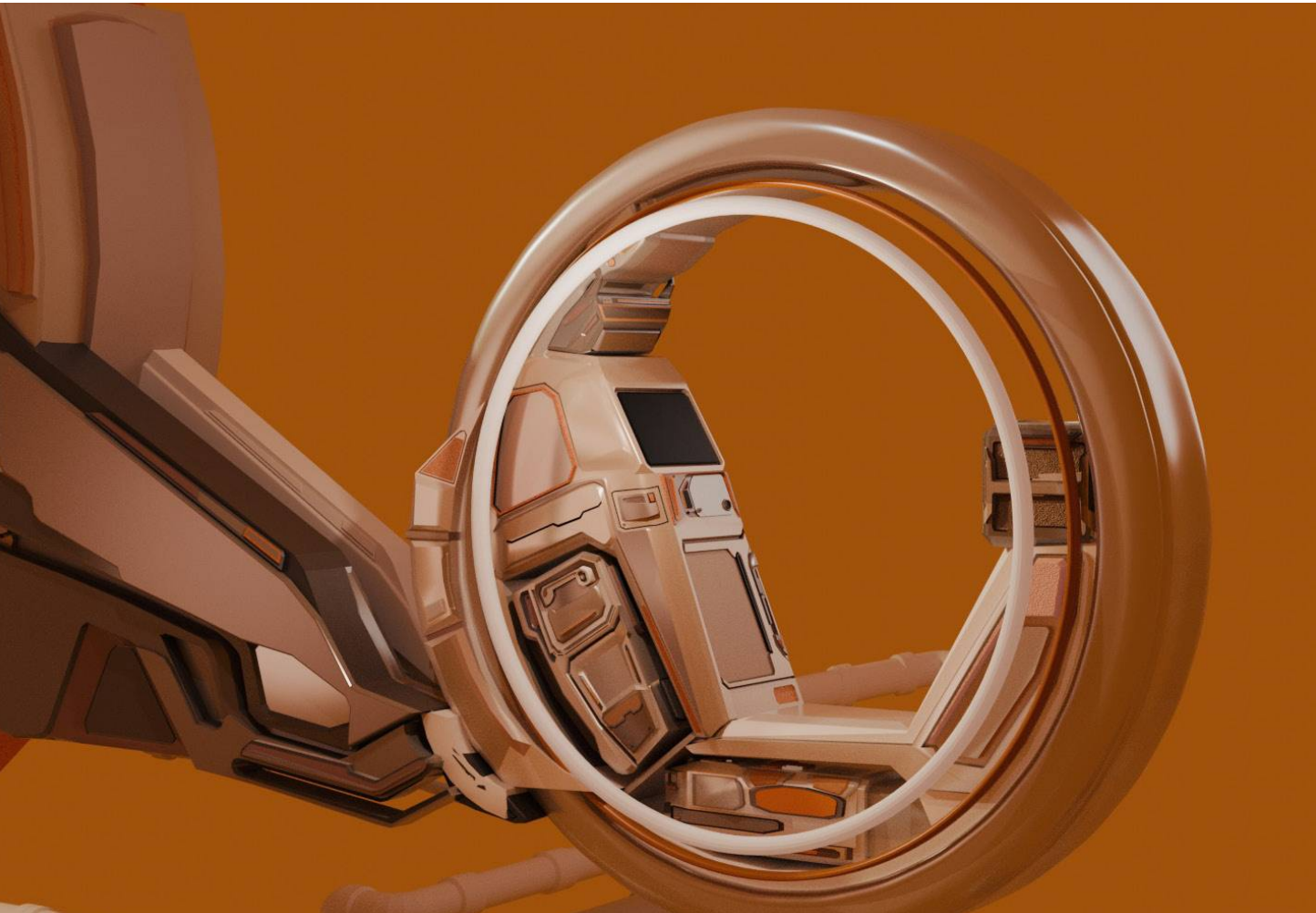
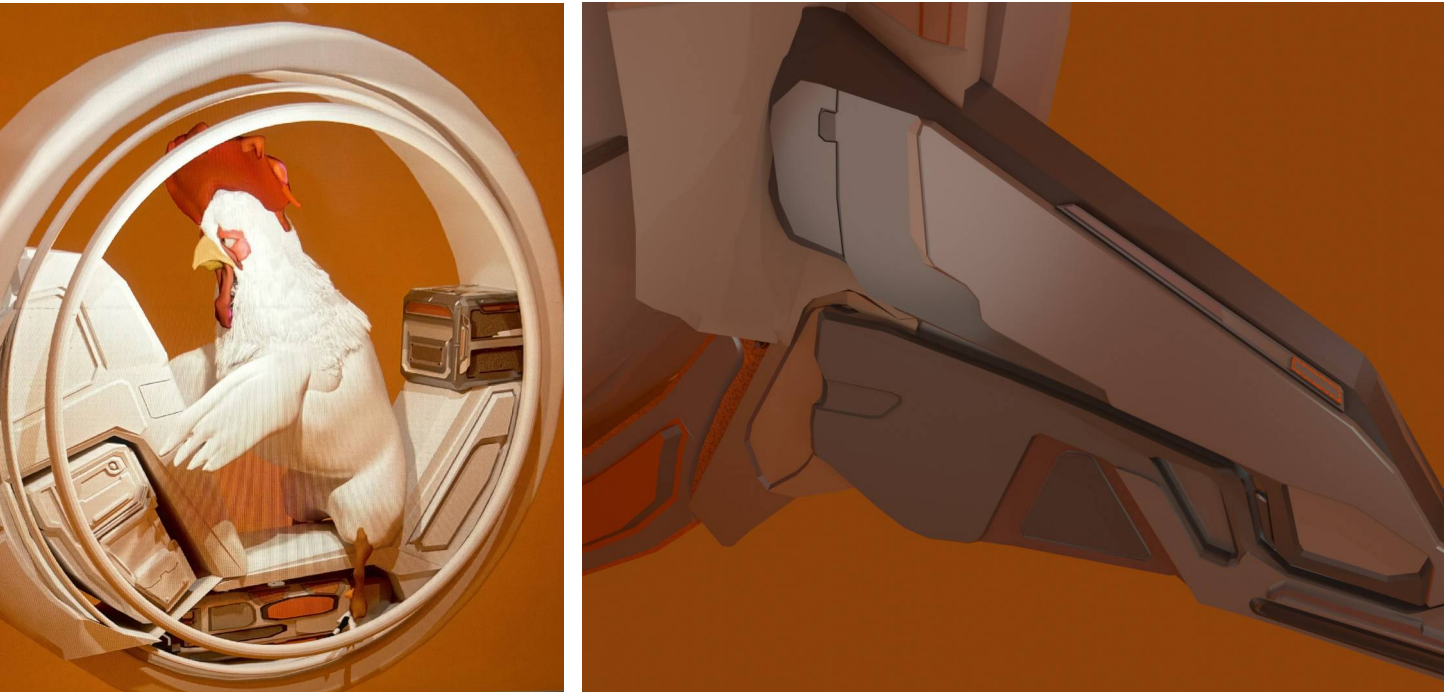
Delivery Vechicle

Energy Cube Delivery Vechicle

This is an energy cube delivery vechicle, designed for Mr. Rooster's daily task of transporting energy cubes. The design aims to retain a recognizable van-like utility while incorporating a distinctive character. Through multiple iterations of its structural and sculptural form, I sought to visually convey the weight and burden of Mr. Rooster's demanding daily deliveries.

Vehicle Design Iterations

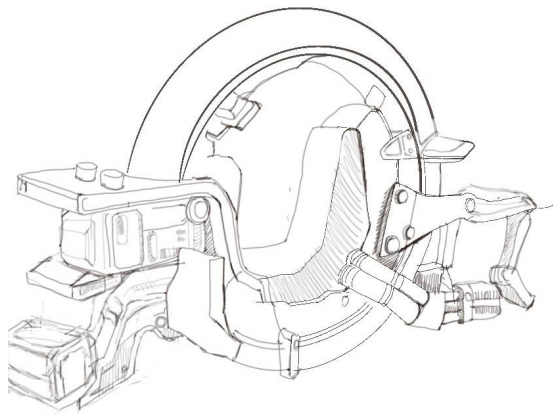
Adding structures to a circular form felt too conventional.(The first version) To critique the irrationality of Mr. Rooster's company, I designed an extremely cramped driver's seat positioned against a massive circular energy-storage area. This stark scale contrast creates a strong sense of oppression and spatial tension, implying the insignificance of the individual within a fundamentally flawed system.



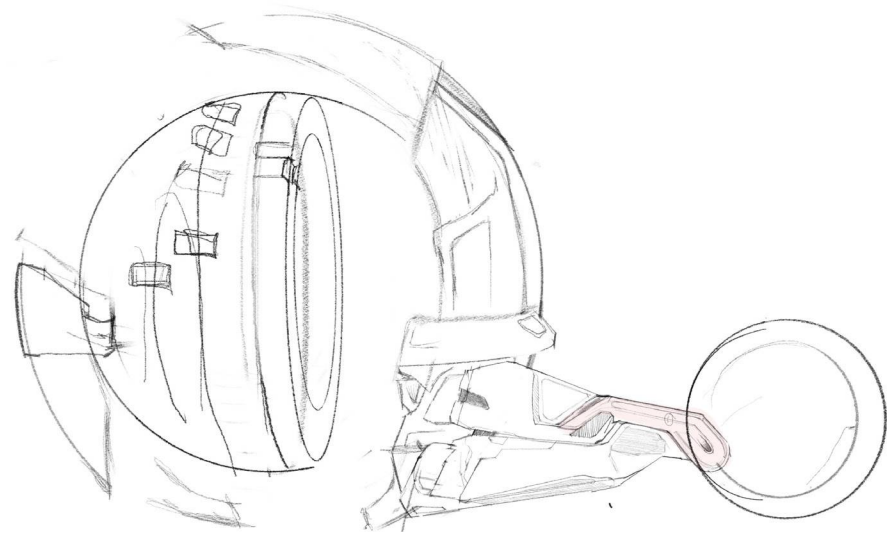
Details



design reference

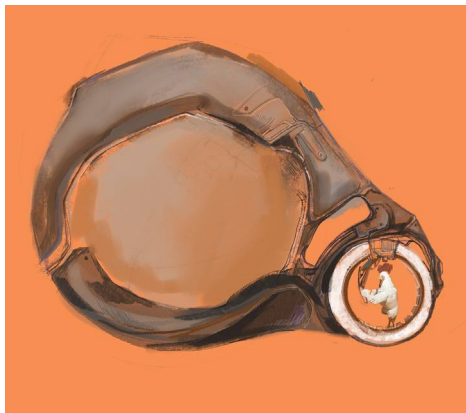


The first version

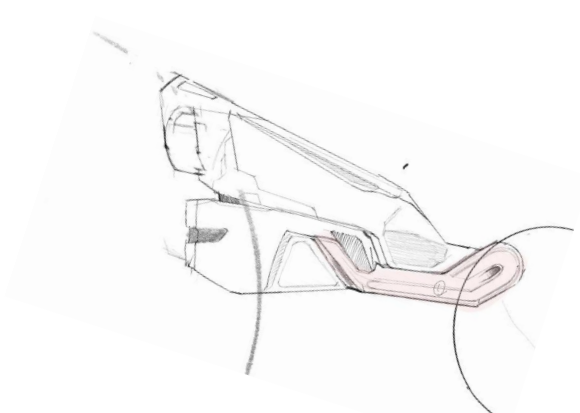


The second version

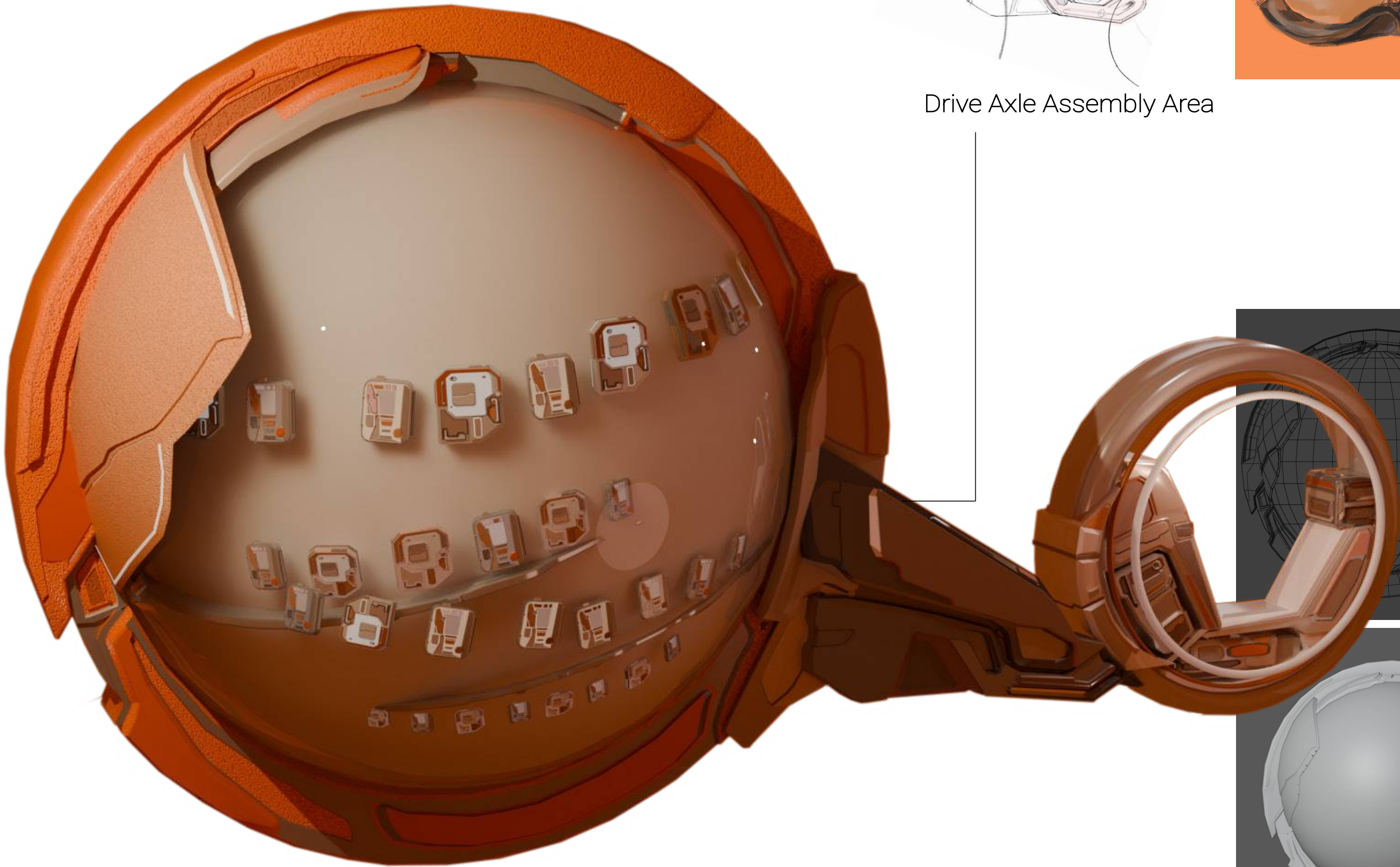
Sketches



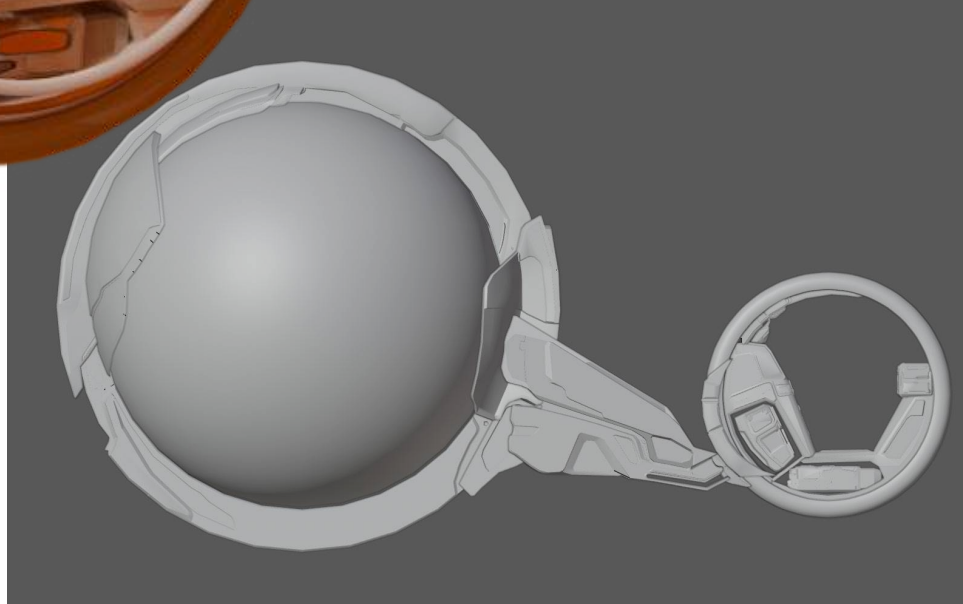
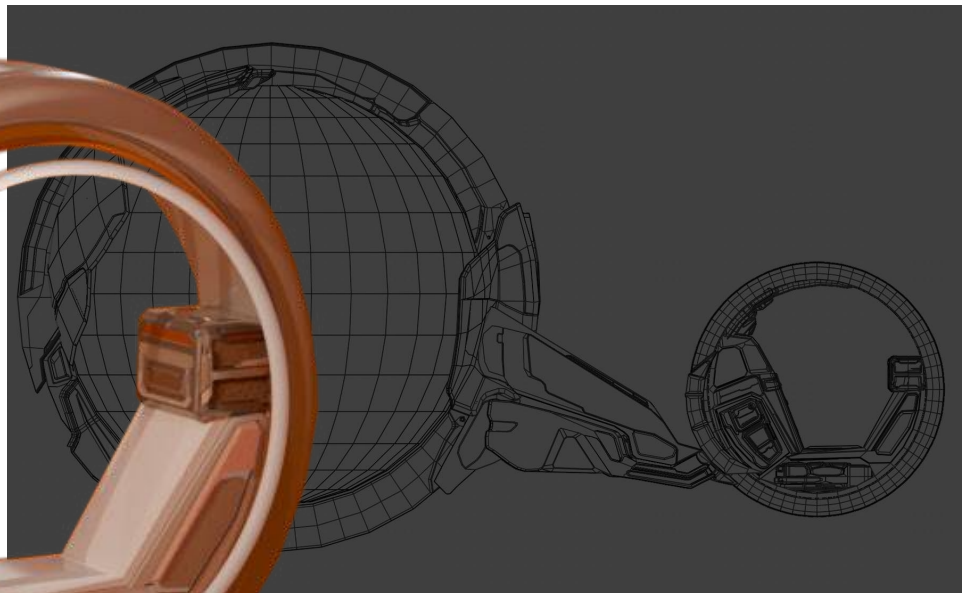
Color Keys



Drive Axle Assembly Area



Work Flow



Reference

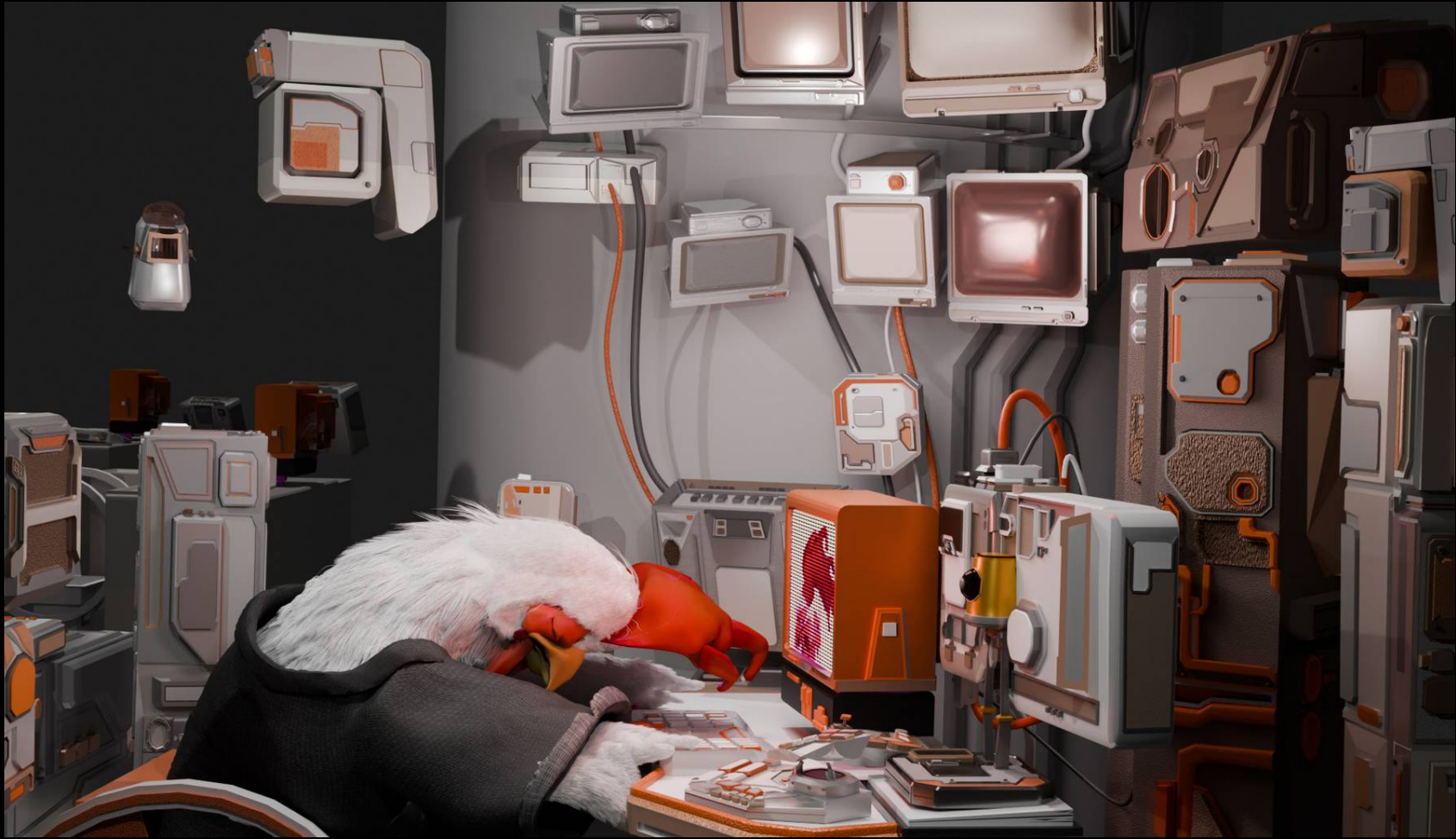
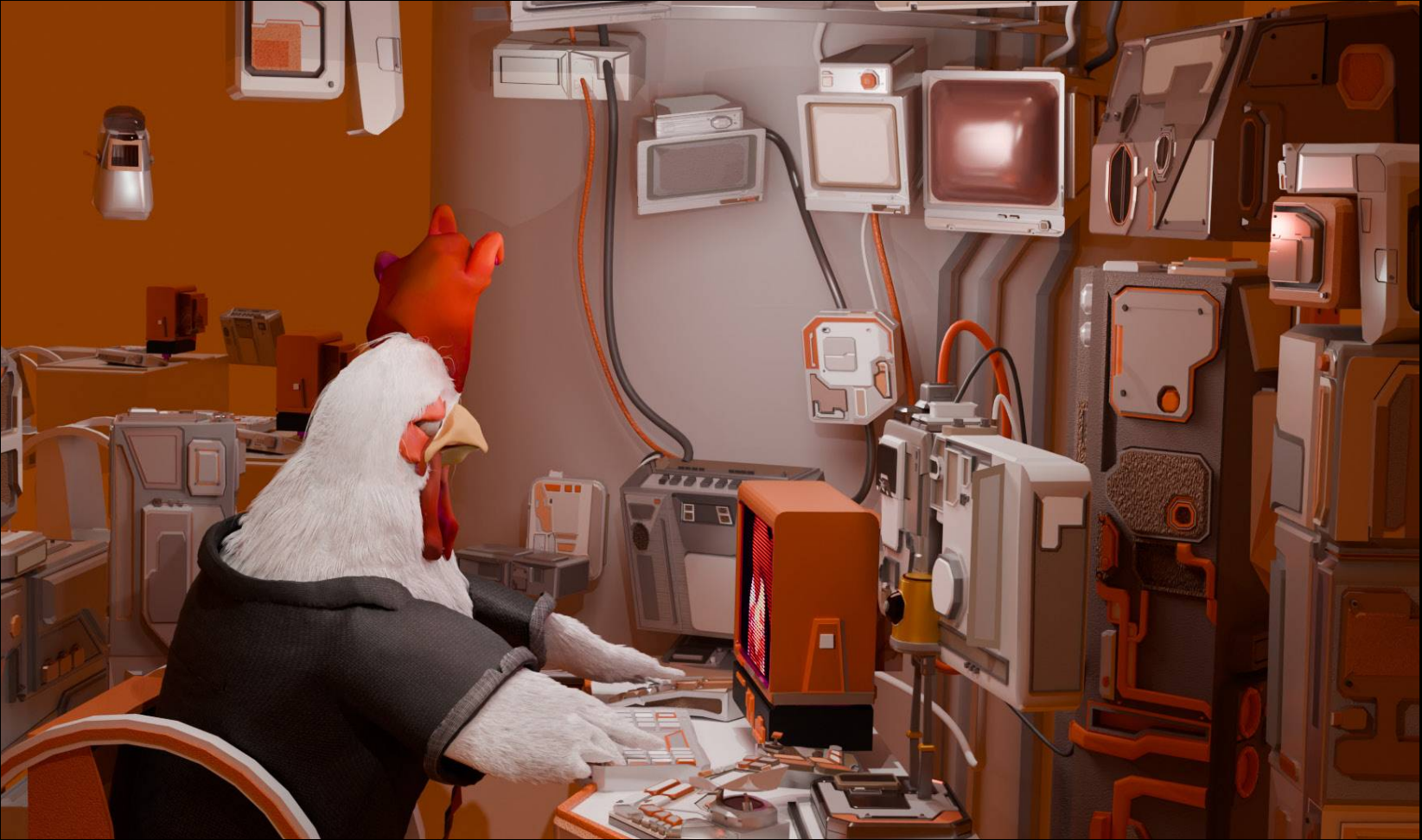
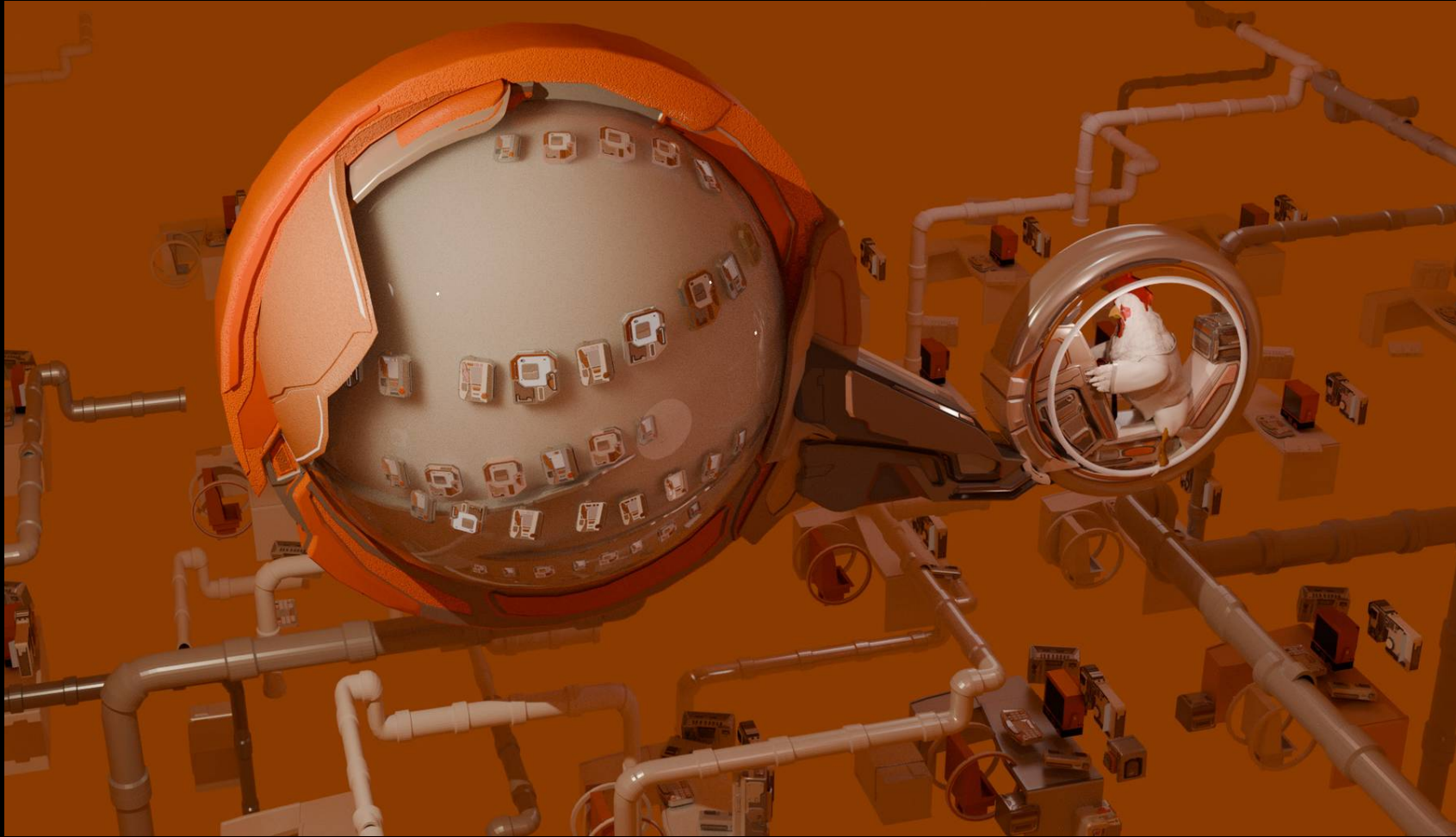
Drawing inspiration from Memento, Mr. Rooster, suffering from severe fatigue and extreme pressure, develops memory issues. Each day, he believes he is making efforts to break free from his predicament. In reality, he is merely repeating a set of deeply ingrained behavioral patterns—

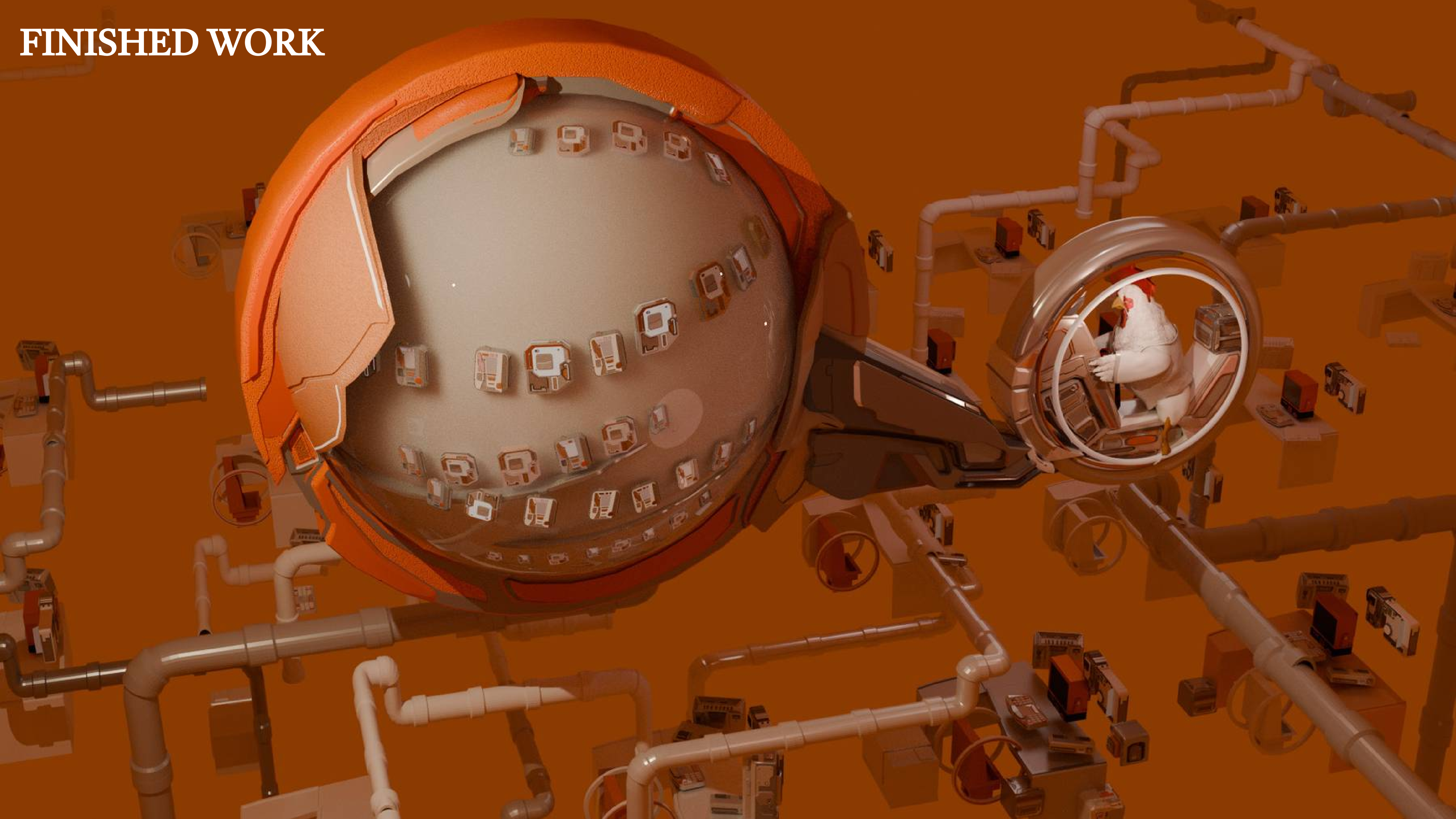
reinforced either by the company or his own subconscious. The outcome of "never gaining trust" thus becomes part of the cyclical narrative itself.

Plot Development

Mr. Rooster began his day by driving the Energy Cube transport vehicle to the work zone. While delivering the cubes to various departments, he slipped, causing the entire stack to tumble. After that, he connected the Energy Cubes to his own computer to process the mountain of daily tasks. As night fell, the work remained unfinished. Exhausted, he slumped over his desk and

fell asleep. In his dream, he felt himself being swallowed by a vortex of surveillance. He then fell through this vortex and landed back in his workstation—a vision implying the tragic end where Mr. Rooster, despite his continuous efforts, never gained true trust in his job.





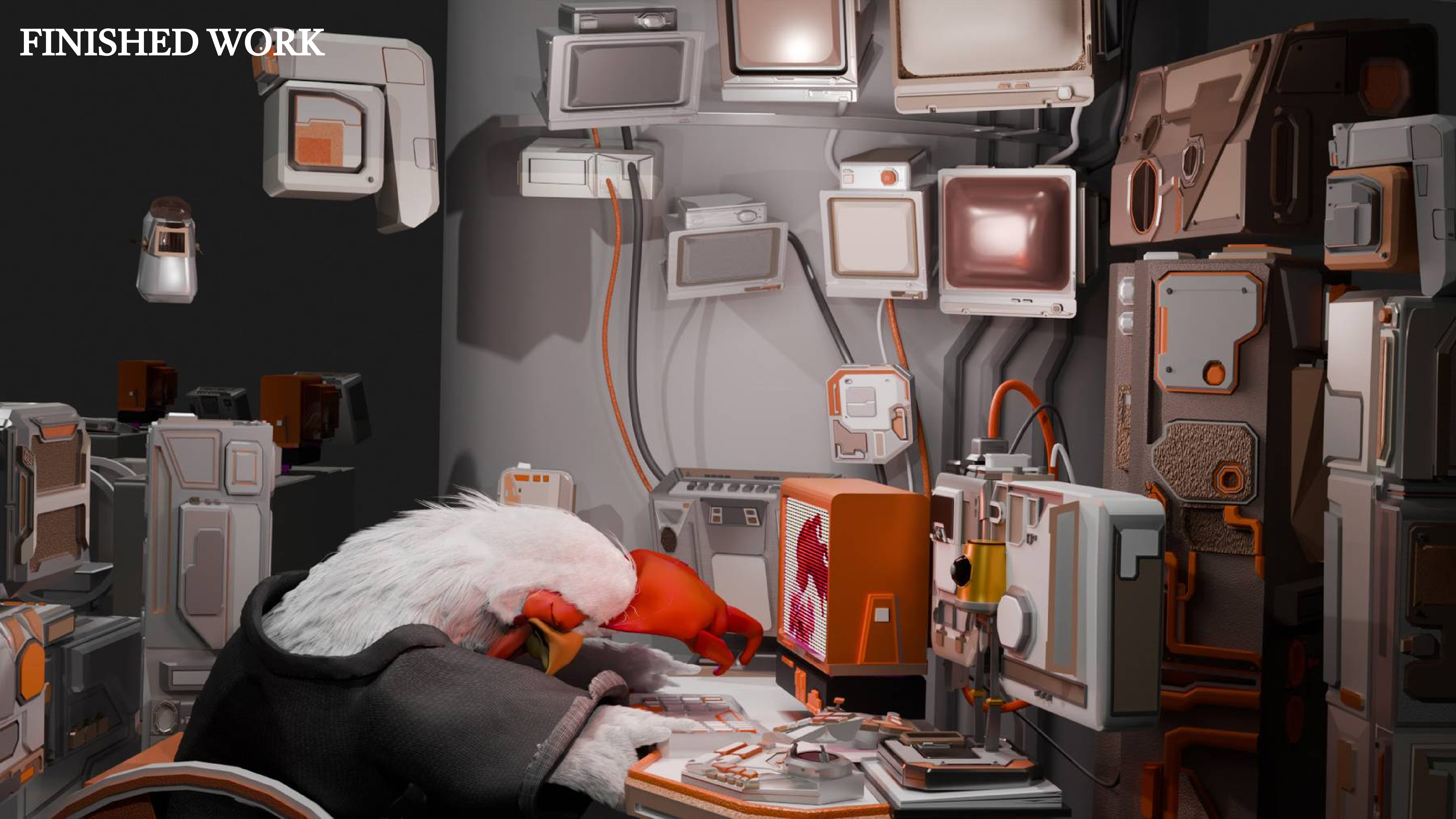
FINISHED WORK



FINISHED WORK



FINISHED WORK



FINISHED WORK



FINISHED WORK



FINISHED WORK



Other drawings

These are some of the artworks I choose to create from 2024 to 2025. Most of the works are pen, marker drawing, some sketches, gouache paintings. These works include a self-portrait drawing, landscape painting

Marker Drawing



Plaster Cast Drawing



Self

January 2026

Zen

November 2021

Marker Drawing

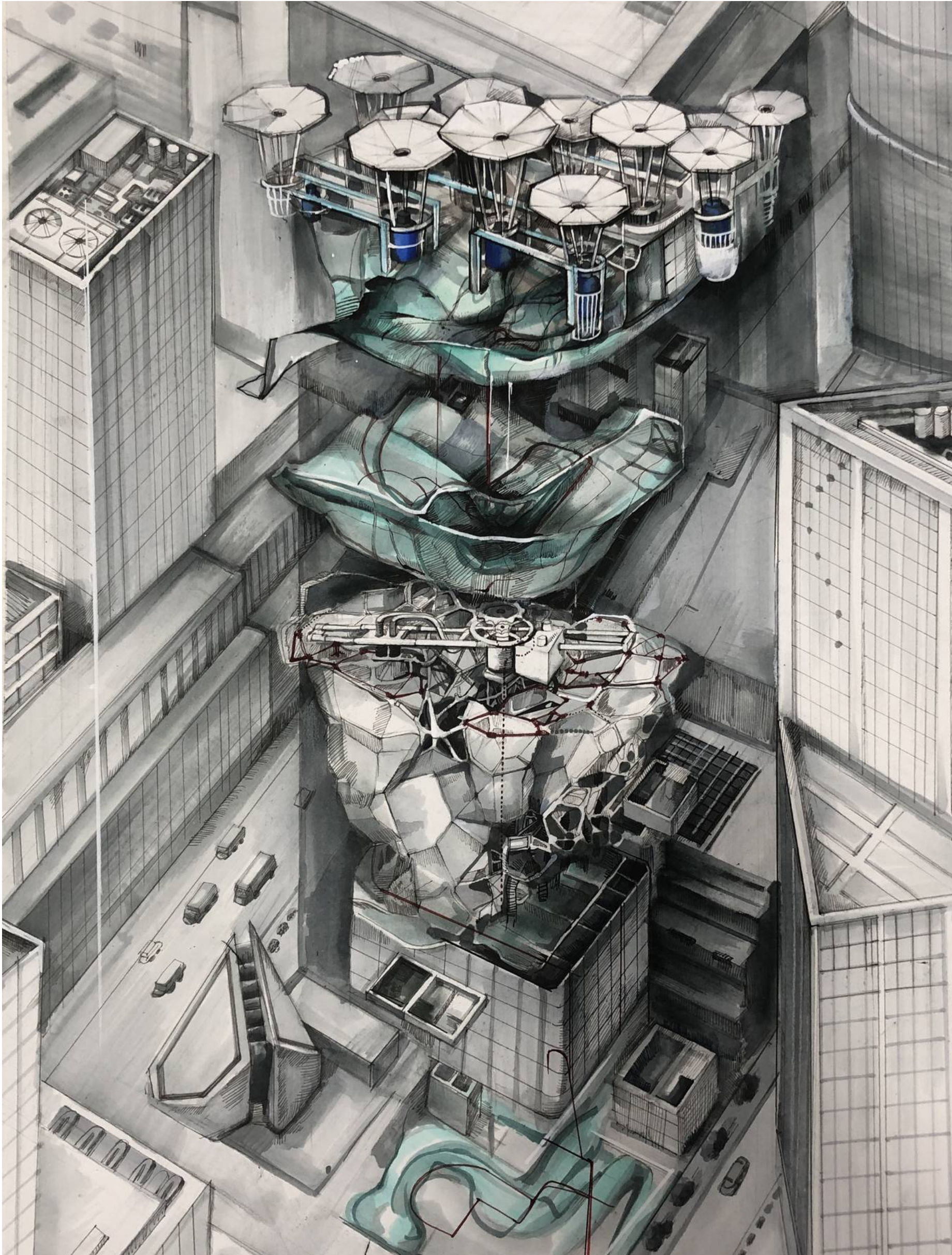


Mechanic Sheep

August 12 2023

Cloud-Fed Irrigation

February 1 2024



Digtal Art



Gouache Paintig



Helpless Cow

March 25 2025

Flower StillLife

May 26 2024