Shannon May

Location: San Francisco, California, and www.shannon-may.com.

Education: I've been working professionally since I got my first New York Times job days after I graduated in May 2000.

Skills: Just me.

Education: arts from Maryland Institute College of Art in illustration and printmaking.

Cultural Influences: Infographics theorist Edward Tufte, mathematician Edwin A. Abbott, biologist Ernst Haeckel, inventor Buckminster Fuller, graphic designer Louise Fili, and mid-century modernism, vintage nautical and science textbooks, The Phantom Tollbooth and science fiction are all loves of mine.

Environment: I spent my childhood on the coast of southern Connecticut amongst ruins of the Revolutionary War and Monk Parakeets. I've lived in Burlington, Vermont, and Baltimore, Maryland; I currently reside in San Francisco. My home studio is full of breakers, old textbooks, a turntable, action figures, my kitten and an antique ruler collection.

Philosophy: I am fascinated by the aesthetics of science and the ability of diagrams and figures to concisely describe observable phenomena. I try to use a similar visual language to describe unobservable phenomena in the simplest and most succinct way possible, believing in a sort of Occam's Razor of illustration.

1 "Editorial illustration for a review of Chef by Jeemprat Singh, about a man who is sent to be a chef's apprentice in the Indian army." Nicholas Blechman, New York Times Book Review, art director.

2 "Personal work about declining prosperity in rural areas." 3 "Part of a personal project illustrating Fantast by Edwin A. Abbott."

4 "Publication editorial illustration about the increasingly harsh beauty standards women face as they approach age in politics and the work force." Nicholas Blechman, art director; New York Times Book Review.

5 "Personal project illustrating Charles Baudelaire's poem L'Homme et la mer."

6 "Editorial illustration for a book review of One Day by David Nicholls, about the distance that grows between two previous lovers over time." Nicholas Blechman, art director; New York Times Book Review, client.

7 "Editorial illustration for 'Ways to Measure Student Learning,' about criticizing standardized testing as a tool for measuring students' education." Alexandre Zigmond, art director; New York Times Op-Ed Page, client.

8 "From my personal project illustrating a vignette from Italo Calvino's Cosmicomics."

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