

# Amy Crook



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Growing up geek, you fill your room with collections that can seem dated and juvenile as you step into adulthood. Careful curation can help those much-loved objects grow with you. Like putting Woody with Buzz Lightyear, adding fine art to your spaces will elevate those collectibles from toys to treasure once again. You can get artwork in sizes small enough to tuck into a bookshelf, and these gorgeous pieces will make wonderful companions to your much-loved aliens, dragons, and robots.

Amy Crook is an artist, designer, and writer, and that's what puts tea in her Piglet mug. She lives in San Leandro, CA – the San Francisco East Bay – with two cats, a roommate, and more tentacle pillows than one would expect.

Her art illuminates in-between spaces, such as the crossroads where geek meets grown-up. In a world full of ugliness, people can use art as a restorative potion to bring a burst of charm and delight that lasts beyond the momentary quest. Endings are the one human constant, and her work often wanders to the places where death intersects with life in a beautiful way, such as trees in winter, skulls, and sunsets. Through abstraction, she explores the ideas of pathways and boundaries, of mapping and exploring, letting curiosity and aesthetic appreciation guide their creation instead of NPCs.

Some of her work stems from the fandoms we all love, as well as the struggles of grown-up geeks to step out of invisibility and into the spotlight. Horizons, distance, and ephemeral beauty are examined in ways that will give the viewer something new to find every time they look. No level grinding necessary -- and though they don't have to catch them all, with small artwork there's always room for one more.

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# Horizons series

The edge of the world is a powerful visual image.

Amy Crook's *Horizons* series takes us to that edge again and again, seeing trees between seasons, birds in flight, and clouds at every time of day and night.

The earth drops away and gives the viewer only up and out. There are glorious sunsets and shifting storm clouds, grey flat days and the bright moon shining at night. Intricate branches stand in front of these wondrous views like lace, bright autumn foliage changing a grey day into a celebration.

Crows among the trees, inspired by the visitors outside her studio window where she looks to the sky for a reminder that the world is still out there, still beautiful, and still worth exploring.



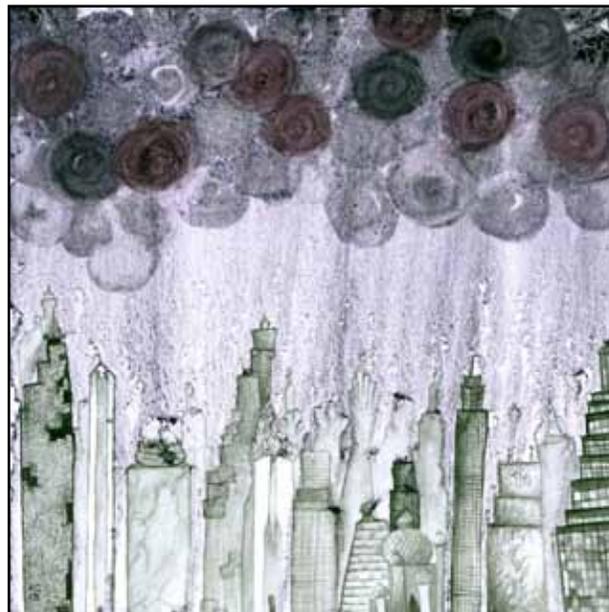
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# City series

Humans have filled our world above with city skylines.

Like decorative borders wherever people settle, cities rise up and present us with amazing views. Rather than reproduce any specific skyline, Amy Crook's *City* series visits the cities of her imagination, whether it's an alternate London full of ghostly Victorian row houses, a burned-out post-apocalyptic shell, or towers of jade and chrysoprase straight out of a Lovecraftian dream.

Using watercolor, ink, and photo references, she creates new places out of whole cloth. Whether or not the viewer wants to visit them depends on the painting and the viewer, but each one captures a tiny moment of the artist's thoughts. Buildings aren't planned ahead of time, but grow one out of the other or rise up in harmony with the background.



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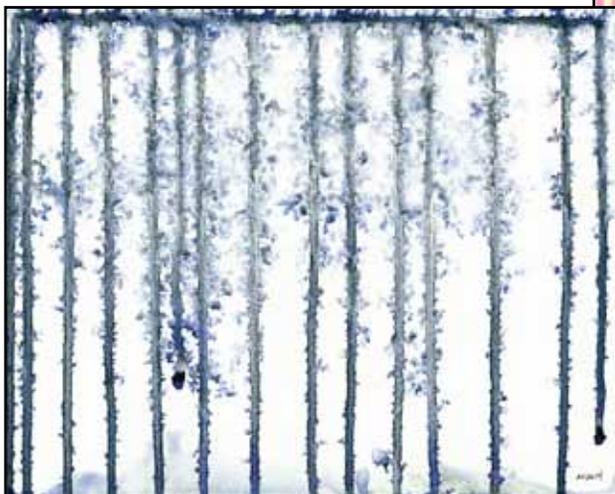
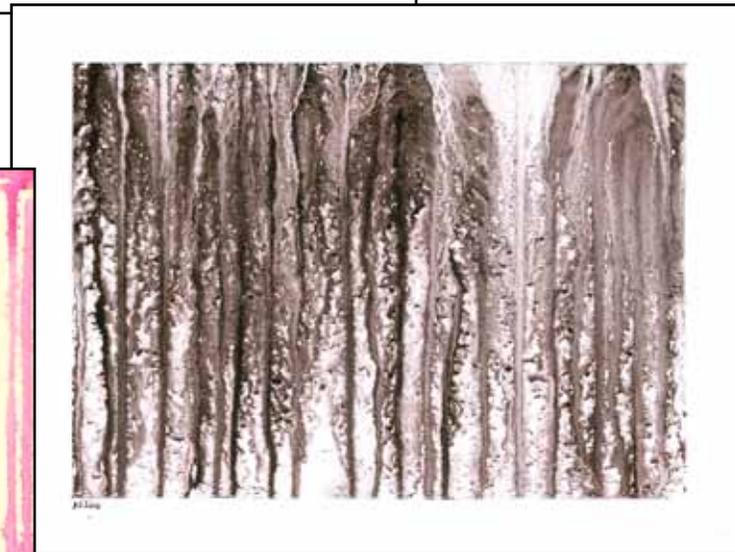
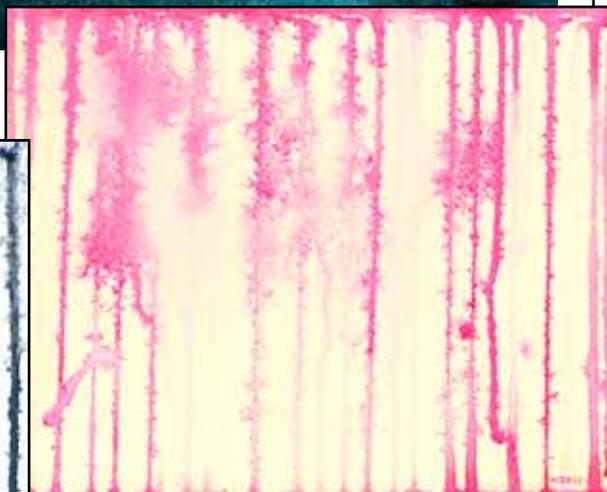
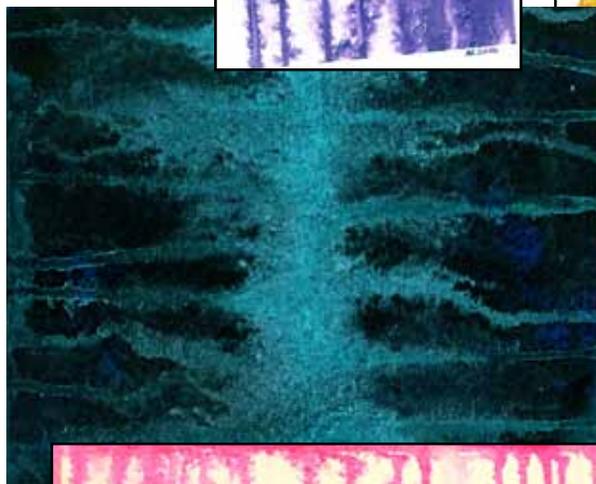
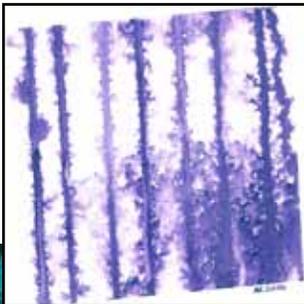
# Pathways series

Even a single color holds a universe of possibility.

Simple palettes and processes come together to create complex abstract watercolors in Amy Crook's *Pathways* paintings.

Flowing water, growing trees, blowing sand, or diverging timelines: whatever it is the viewer sees is the right thing.

These paintings will catch your eye at odd moments and show you a new detail every time you look at them. They often have a touch of shine hiding in the color, or a mix of colors that separate into a tiny slice of rainbow on the page. Each one is a new exploration of the theme of following your own path.



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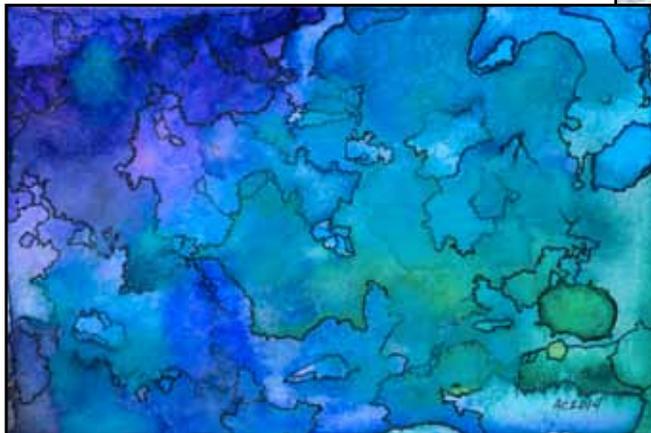
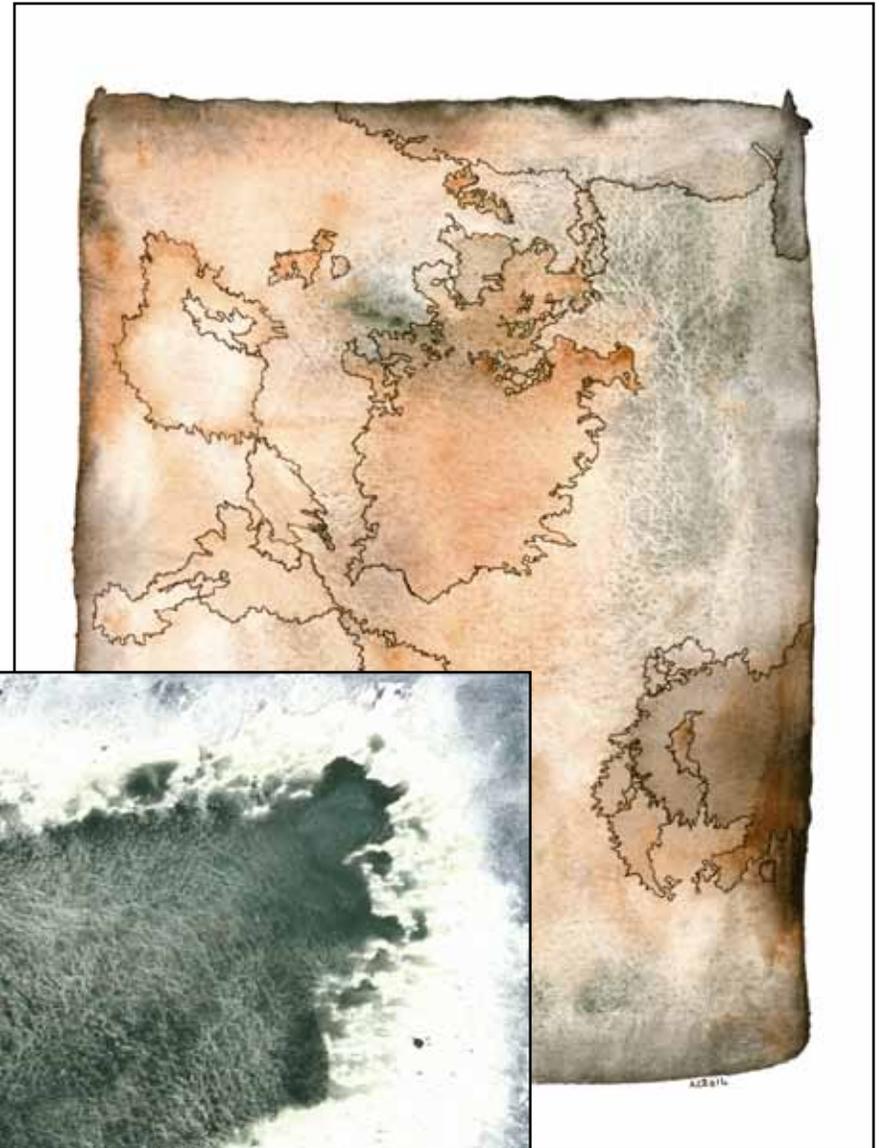
# Map series

What if the map defines the place it describes?

Amy Crook's *Map* series combines pen and ink borders with abstract watercolor shapes to create charts to undiscovered lands.

Boundaries are never clearer than on maps. Yet at the same time, maps highlight the impermanence and fluidity of those boundaries. These abstract maps offer a sense of possibility, of worlds unknown, yet to be explored.

Whether the painting reflects an imaginary history of shifting borders, the path to some forgotten treasure, or the way to a country just around some corner you can't quite turn, this abstract cartography will show you the way.



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# Growth series

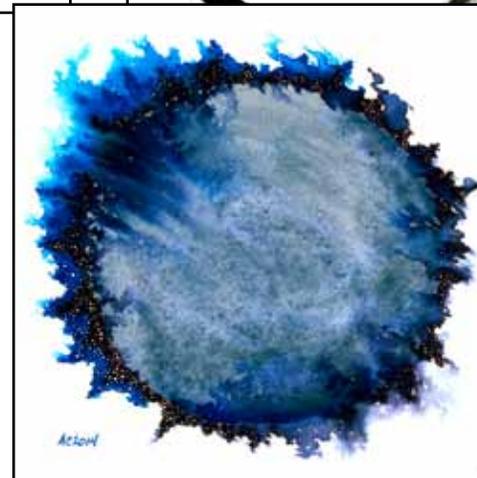
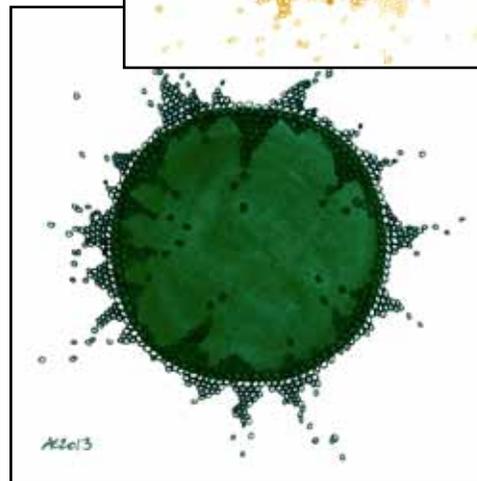
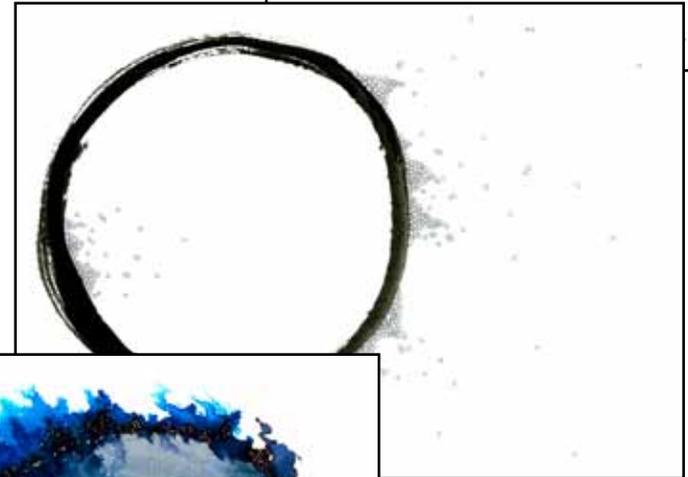
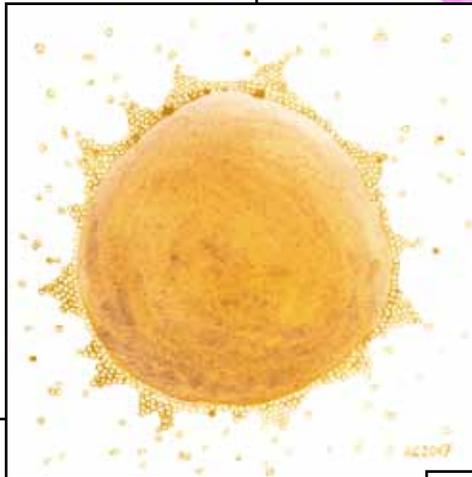
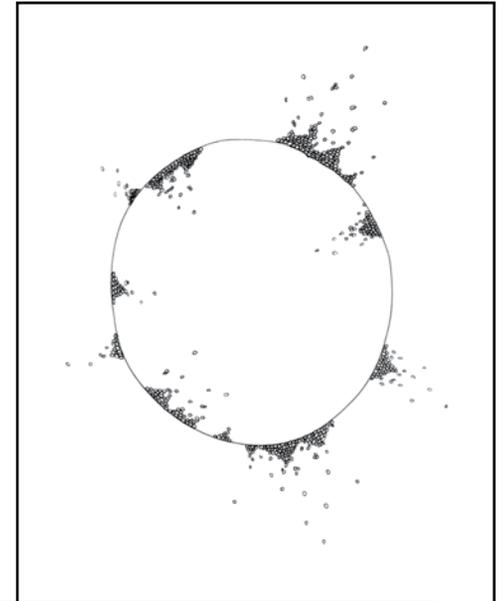
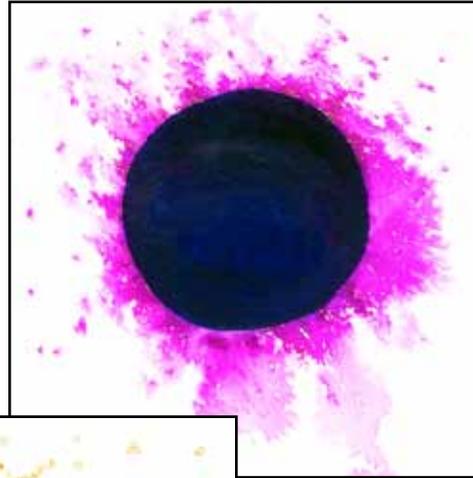
Ink and paint create an expression of expanding beyond one's present self.

A series of tiny mixed media artworks, Amy Crook's *Growth* abstracts pack a lot of imagery into a small space.

The idea starts with a circle, the central self, the world at the heart of the image. Seeds, eggs, pods; something moves outward and into the greater space, and sometimes inward as well, because growth never happens in just one direction.

Whether the center is a solid circle or the thinnest line, the imperfect wobble of it reflects the reality that nothing and nobody is perfect.

That is, after all, the reason for growth.



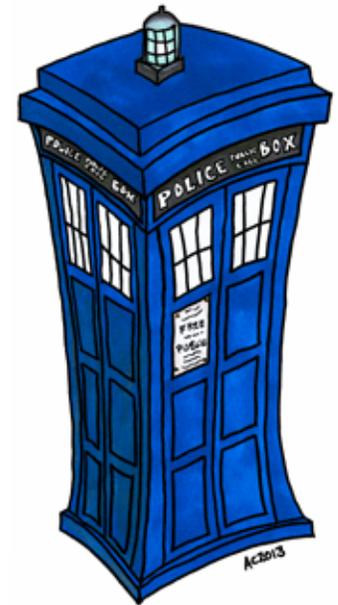
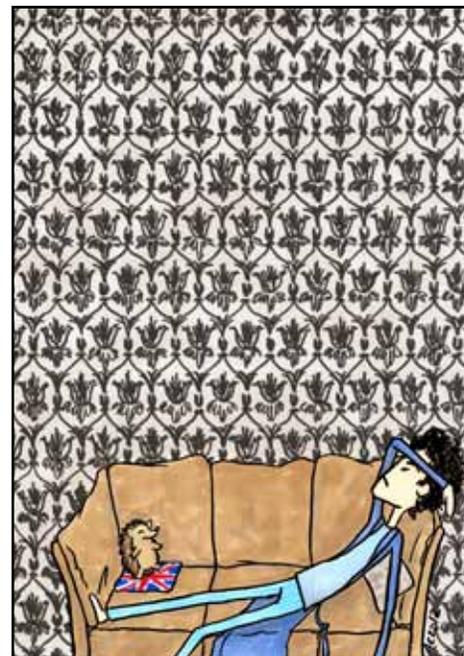
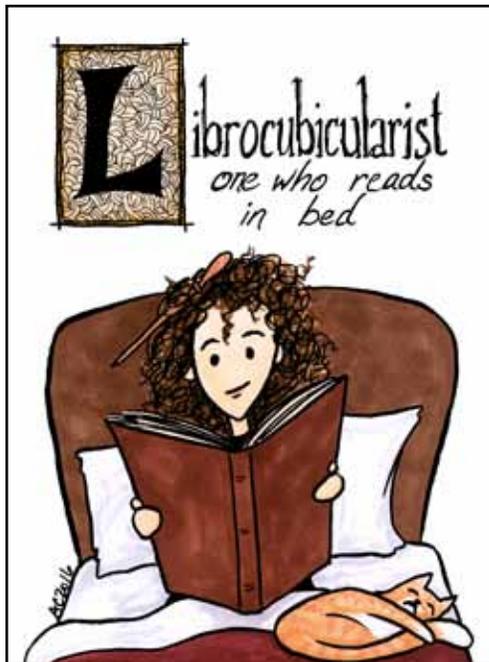
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# Fan art

When subtle things like a TARDIS blue abstract aren't enough, the discerning geek can always go for straight up fan art.

Word art, chibi icons, cartoons and illustrations are all available to help celebrate the grown-up love of books, movies, and television. From Cthulhu to *Star Trek*, *Inception* to *Doctor Who*, Amy Crook works with fans to commemorate their mutual love of media properties.

Whether you love time travel or tentacles, there's something for every geeky fangirl and fanboy.



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