

the Imperfecta Gallery Presents

Fairies

Marco Calvi

September 3-26, 2026

For inquiries or purchases, please contact Daria Loi at imperfecta@studioloi.xyz

About the artist



Marco Calvi is a freelance illustrator who lives and works in Milan.

He collaborates with various publishing houses, including ABEditore, Mosca Bianca Edizioni, Nativi Digitali Edizioni, and with craft businesses throughout Italy.

Marco loves history, scary things and mysterious things, like ghosts, magic and legends. He shares his life with his partner Federico and their two mischievous whippets Jasper and Lancillotto.

Welcome to "Fairies," a short, illustrated journey through creatures of folklore and imagination.

I have sought to offer my own visual interpretation of ancient creatures that are now part of our collective imagination. The exhibition is divided into three main groups: pixies, changelings, and fairies. These three distinct creatures will introduce us to different facets of this mysterious world of folklore.

Introduction

Aos sí or aos sídhe (pronounced [i:sʲiː]; English approximation: /i:s ʃi:/ eess SHEE) is the Irish name for a supernatural race in Gaelic folklore, similar to elves. They are said to descend from the Tuatha Dé Danann or the gods of Irish mythology. The term aos sí means "folk of the sí"; these are the mounds in which they are said to dwell, which are seen as portals to an Otherworld. Such abodes are referred to in English as "shees", "fairy mounds", "elf mounds" or "hollow hills". The aos sí interact with humans and the human world. They are variously said to be the ancestors, the spirits of nature, or goddesses and gods.

Fairies

A fairy is a type of mythical being or legendary creature, generally described as anthropomorphic, found in the folklore of multiple European cultures a form of spirit, often with magical, metaphysical, supernatural, or preternatural qualities.

The label of fairy has at times applied only to specific magical creatures with human appearance, magical powers, and a penchant for trickery.

Fairies were sometimes thought to haunt specific locations and to lead travelers astray using will-o'-the-wisps. Before the advent of modern medicine, fairies were often blamed for sickness, particularly tuberculosis and birth deformities.

In addition to their folkloric origins, fairies were a common feature of Renaissance literature and Romantic art and were especially popular in the United Kingdom during the Victorian and Edwardian eras. It was only in the Victorian era that fairies took on the appearance by which we identify them today (small, winged creatures). Originally, they were exactly like human beings in every respect, yet endowed with great beauty and incredible magical powers.

In this exhibition, we will meet the Fairy King and Queen—Oberon and Titania—and the Queen's four handmaidens, whom William Shakespeare writes about in his play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

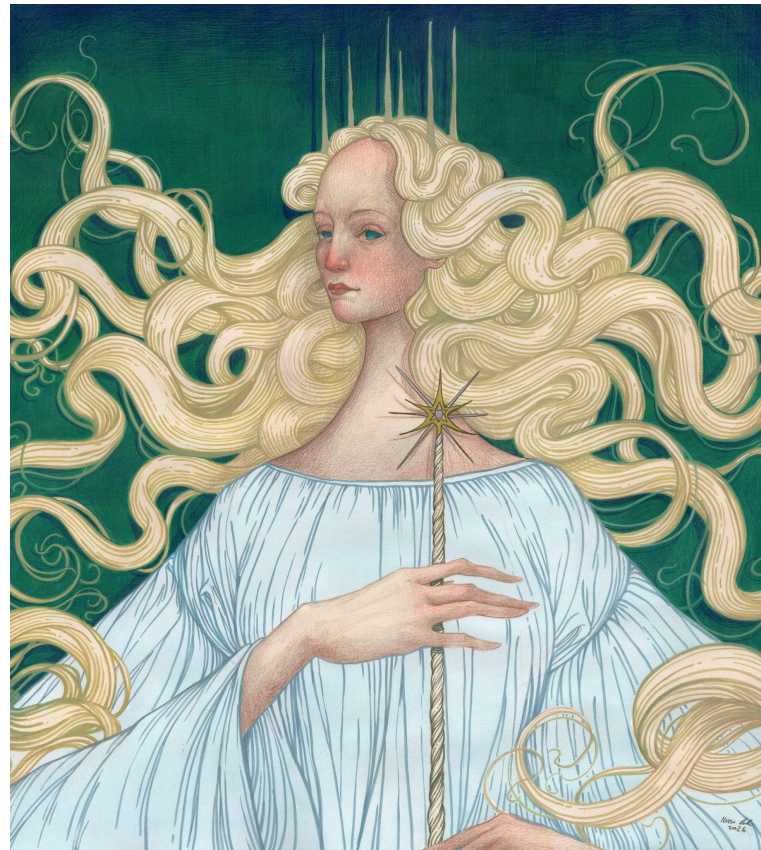
Marco Calvi
Queen Titania

Watercolors, Acrylics and pencils on paper
15,75x19,75 inches

\$ 1,600 (sold unframed)

Category: Queen of Fairies

Titania is the Queen of the fairies and wife of the Fairy King, Oberon. The pair are depicted as powerful natural spirits who together guarantee the fertility or health of the human and natural worlds. She is a character in William Shakespeare's 1595–1596 play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The names Titania sound vaguely classical, but neither is a figure from classical mythology. Survivals of homegrown English paganism were sometimes denounced as witchcraft; but Shakespeare folds his pagan fairies into the more accepted mythology of Greco-Roman literature. Shakespeare likely took the name Titania from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, where it is an appellation given to the daughters of Titans. In traditional folklore, the fairy queen has no name. Due to Shakespeare's influence, later fiction has often used the name Titania for fairy-queen characters.



Marco Calvi
Peaseblossom

Watercolors, acrylics and pencils on paper
12x16 inches

\$ 620 (sold unframed)

Category: Handmaiden of Titania

She is one of the fairies in the direct service of Queen Titania in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and is linked to the plant world. Skilled, swift, and efficient, she always carries out the Queen's orders..



Marco Calvi

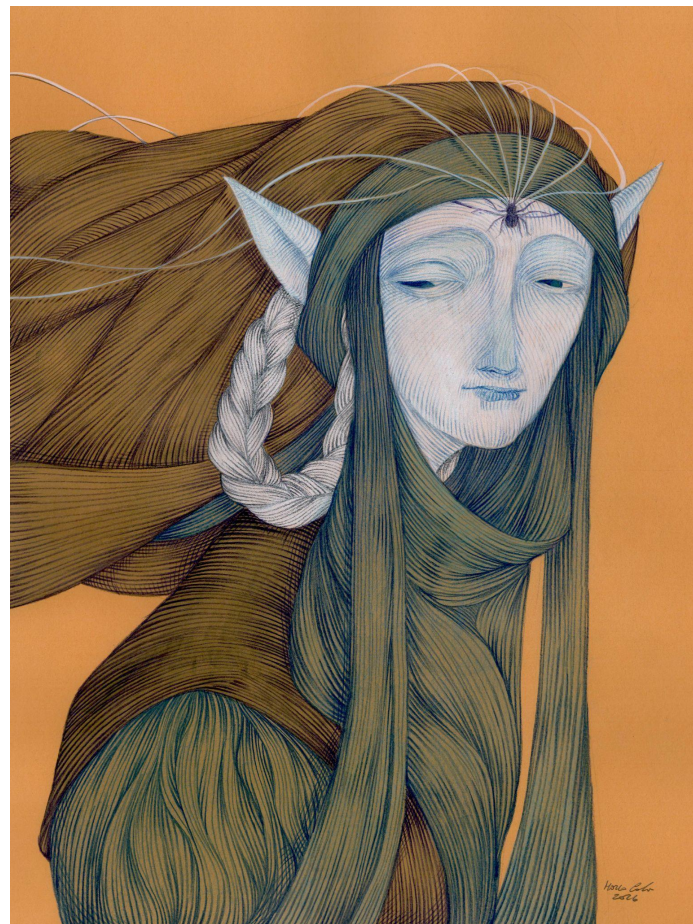
Cobweb

Watercolors, acrylics and pencils on paper
12x16 inches

\$ 620 (sold unframed)

Category: Handmaiden of Titania

She is one of the fairies in the direct service of Queen Titania in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream**, with a special connection to the animal world. She always carries out the most delicate tasks—those requiring lightness and care. She is thoughtful, quiet, and wise.



Marco Calvi

Moth

Watercolors, acrylics and pencils on paper
12x16 inches

\$ 620 (sold unframed)

Category: Handmaiden of Titania

She is one of the fairies in the direct service of Queen Titania in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream**, with a connection to the animal world. She has an eccentric and whimsical nature, often speaking in riddles and puns. It is said that through her painted eyes she can see everything, including the past and the future.



Marco Calvi
Mustardseed

Watercolors, acrylics and pencils on paper
12x16 inches

\$ 620 (sold unframed)

Category: Handmaiden of Titania

She is one of the fairies in the direct service of Queen Titania in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with ties to the plant world. Cheerful, spirited, and often mischievous, she loves playing pranks on members of the court to amuse the Queen. If she remains quiet and still for too long, she is likely plotting some amusing trick.



Marco Calvi

Pollicina (Thumbelina)

Ink and watercolors on paper
8,25x11,5 inches

\$ 220 (sold unframed)

Category: Fairy

A tiny girl from the famous fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen. She was born from a magical flower given by a witch to a woman who could not have children. After a series of adventures, she married the prince of a small kingdom of flower fairies. He gave her a pair of wings, allowing her to accompany him on his travels and visit her mother whenever she wished.



Marco Calvi
The fairy Tree

Ink and marker on paper
8x10 inches

\$ 340 (sold unframed)

Category: Fairy

When I was a child I found myself in front of the fairy tree.
"Don't talk to the fairies" said the grandmother "Or they will kidnap you and you will never return home". But their voice was so gentle and the world I lived in was so sad that I followed them. I have lived in their kingdom ever since and have never returned home.



Marco Calvi

Naiad

Ink and watercolors on paper
5x7 inches

\$ 220 (sold unframed)

Category: Natural spirit

In Greek mythology, the naiads are a type of female spirit, or nymph, presiding over fountains, wells, springs, streams, brooks and other bodies of fresh water. Naiads could be dangerous: Hylas of the Argo's crew was lost when he was taken by naiads fascinated by his beauty.



Changelings

A changeling, also historically referred to as an auf or oaf, is a human-like creature found throughout much of European folklore. According to folklore, a changeling was a substitute left by a supernatural being when kidnapping a human being. Although sometimes it was a "stock" (a piece of wood made magically to resemble the kidnapped human), more often the changeling was a supernatural being made magically to look like the kidnapped human.

Supernatural beings blamed for stealing children including fairies, demons, trolls, nereids and many others. Usually, the kidnapped human was a child; but there were cases, particularly in Scandinavia and Ireland, where adults were taken.

Some modern scholars have argued these stories of replaced children originated as folklore explanations for autism or other developmental conditions.

A fairy child may appear sickly and will not grow in size like a normal child, and may have notable physical characteristics such as a beard or long teeth. They may also display intelligence far beyond their apparent years and possess uncanny insight. A common way that a changeling could identify itself is through displaying unusual behaviour when it thinks it is alone, such as jumping about, dancing or playing an instrument – though this last example is found only within Irish and Scottish legend. A human child might supposedly be taken due to many factors: to act as a servant, the love of a human child, or malice.

Marco Calvi

Thomas and his Changeling

Watercolors, acrylics and pencils on paper
8x10 inches

\$ 380 (mat with original artist illustration; unframed)

Category: Changeling

Dunkeld, Scotland - May 1892

Little Thomas had been readied for his afternoon nap by his nanny. As she did every day, his mother sang him a lullaby to lull him to sleep. Leaving the room, she cast one last glance at her sleeping son. At 5:00 PM, the nanny prepared to wake the child. Before opening the door, she heard a rasping voice and the sound of toys. It was impossible for the child to have climbed out of his crib on his own. Upon opening the door, she was horrified to see a changeling—wearing the child's nightshirt—sitting on the floor with a sneer plastered across its face. Thomas was never seen again, and the family was forced to care for the changeling forever, hoping their son would be returned to them.



Marco Calvi

Isabella and her Changeling

Watercolors, acrylics and pencils on paper
8x10 inches

\$ 380 (mat with original artist illustration; unframed)

Category: Changeling

Cremona, Italy - August 1912

Isabella was playing in the garden at dusk, just as the summer heat began to subside. Her mother often glanced out the window to see what she was doing. Suddenly, she saw the little girl shyly conversing with a hydrangea bush. When dinner was ready, her mother called for Isabella. A creature appeared at the kitchen door, attempting to mimic the child. They stared at each other for a moment; then, the changeling sat down in Isabella's place at the table.



Marco Calvi

Étienne and his Changeling

Watercolors, acrylics and pencils on paper
8x10 inches

\$ 380 (mat with original artist illustration; unframed)

Category: Changeling

Vannes, France - February 1871

Étienne loved playing ball on the beach. His parents had told him repeatedly that it wasn't allowed in winter, but the boy had always been very stubborn. So, he decided to go anyway. He stepped out the door and walked the short distance to the beach. The sea was grey and rough, and a cold wind was blowing. Étienne almost immediately regretted not listening to his mother and father. He was about to head back home when something called his name from a dark hollow among the rocks. The boy approached. An old fisherman later recounted seeing him by the rocks as he was returning home. When his parents realized he had gone out, they ran to the beach. The changeling was playing in the sand, wearing the boy's clothes. No one ever saw Étienne again; the fairies had taken him away.



Inquiries: Daria Loi - imperfecta@studioloi.xyz

Marco Calvi

Alice and her Changeling

Watercolors, acrylics and pencils on paper
8x10 inches

\$ 380 (mat with original artist illustration; unframed)

Category: Changeling

Albany, State of New York - October 1927

Little Alice loved being in her father's fabric shop. She used to say that when she grew up, she would make beautiful dresses out of those colorful fabrics. She often built a fort out of fabric scraps, playing with her doll and singing little rhyming songs inside it. One afternoon, after saying goodbye to a customer, her father went to look for his daughter. He found the fort made of multicolored fabrics and heard a song drifting from deep within that tangle of cloth—a strange, unfamiliar song about horrible things and misfortunes. The deep voice was not his little girl's; it belonged to the changeling that had taken Alice's place.



Pixies

A pixie is a mythical creature of British folklore. Pixies are speculated to be particularly concentrated in the high moorland areas around Cornwall and Devon, suggesting some Celtic origin for the belief and name. Pixies are believed to inhabit ancient underground sites such as stone circles, barrows, dolmens, ringforts, or menhirs. In traditional regional lore, pixies are generally benign, mischievous, short of stature, and childlike; they are fond of dancing and wrestling outdoors, which they perform through the night.

There are various types of pixies, each with its own distinct characteristics. You won't find two identical pixies in the exhibition; each one has its own personality, passions, and dislikes. You will notice that none of them have names. I wanted whoever adopts a pixie to form a special bond with it. Therefore, the first thing to do upon adoption is to give your pixie a name and write it as the title of the illustration. From that moment on, it becomes *your* pixie. Whether it has a good nature or a mischievous one, it will remain loyal only to you.

Marco Calvi

(#1)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Reflective, solitary, and introverted.

His body is a light leaf that allows him to fly on the wind.

He loves tranquility and peace.



Marco Calvi

(#2)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Collector, curious and covetous.

He loves jewelry and things that sparkle. He sneaks into ladies' jewelry boxes to steal items with which to decorate his antlers.



Marco Calvi

(#3)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Playful, sociable, and generous.

He lives with caterpillars and helps them transform
into beautiful butterflies. A loyal and charming friend.
He loves jokes.



Inquiries: Daria Loi - imperfecta@studioloi.xyz

Marco Calvi

(#4)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Anxious, hyperactive, and farsighted.

He thinks a lot about the consequences of his actions—sometimes overthinking them to the point of getting stuck on trifles. He never goes out without his hat, as it gives him a sense of security.



Marco Calvi

(#5)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Elegant, refined, and snobbish

Elegance is her priority. She always flaunts the most beautiful, fragrant petals. She is refined in the way she moves and speaks. She considers herself superior to others—and perhaps, in terms of style, she is.



Marco Calvi

(#6)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Dim-witted, charming, and a petty thief.

He loves ribbons of all shapes and colors. He has hundreds of them, stolen from human homes. He wears them like scarves, thinking he looks fashionable—but he's mistaken.



Marco Calvi

(#7)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Brave, protective, and wry.

He defends the entrance to the Pixie city, even though no one ever asked him to. He wants to prove his courage by protecting his friends. He built his spear himself.



Marco Calvi

(#8)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Spiteful, wicked, and a night owl

He delights in making others the butt of his jokes. Everyone fears his cruel pranks. He laughs at other people's misfortunes. He never sleeps. Don't let him drink coffee, or he'll become even more agitated.



Marco Calvi

(#9)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Bouncy, lively, and carefree

She wears a very tall hat so that others can see her coming and don't risk stepping on her. She hops around everywhere. She laughs a lot, even at silly things.



Marco Calvi

(#10)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Know-it-all, cunning, and attention-seeking

She loves being the center of attention. She always has to be the star of the show. She pretends to know things she doesn't, just to be admired. She talks a lot. She talks constantly. She's the only one who ever speaks!



Marco Calvi

(#11)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Showy, imaginative, and vengeful

His plumage is stunning. No one thinks otherwise. There were a few who did in the past, actually, but none of them are around anymore. Could he be to blame? Who knows.



Marco Calvi

(#12)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Quiet, wistful, and gentle

If you are looking for a comforting word, you can turn to her. Her voice is calm and reassuring. Everyone loves her and seeks out her touch when they are sad.



Marco Calvi

(#13)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

A musician, cruel, and a skilled swimmer.

His favorite pastime is playing his nose on foggy nights to lure weary travelers into the lake where he lives and drown them. He swims very fast thanks to his webbed hands and feet.



Marco Calvi

(#14)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

A curious and adventurous traveler

He loves traveling the world and seeing new places.
He is never at home because he is always on the
move. His friends wonder why he even has a home if
he never lives there. He sends lots of postcards from
his travels.



Marco Calvi

(#15)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Unscrupulous, money-grubbing, and smarmy.

She offers her magical services in exchange for exorbitant fees. She exploits the desperation of others to get what she wants, using a flattering, gentle manner that turns out to be a trap.



Marco Calvi

(#16)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Clumsy, simple, and approachable

A bit awkward and clumsy due to his size, but kind-hearted. Always ready to lend a hand, even to strangers. It takes very little to make him happy and content.



Marco Calvi

(#17)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Dancer, shy, and adorable

She loves to dance but is too shy to perform in public. She often dances in fields of daisies, wearing a flower crown around her neck so she can blend in with the blossoms should a human happen to pass by.



Inquiries: Daria Loi - imperfecta@studioloi.xyz

Marco Calvi

(#18)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Gluttonous, cunning, and melodramatic

He has learned that if he looks sad and pretends to cry, humans will give him cookies—a treat he loves—to comfort him. Don't be fooled. He isn't capable of crying, so he uses drops of dew to fake tears.



Marco Calvi

(#19)

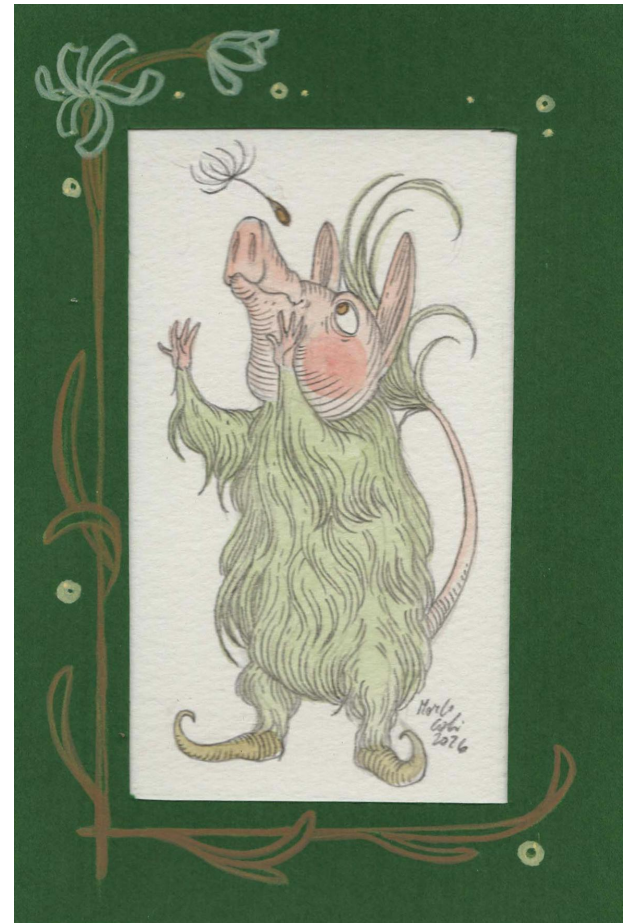
graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

A dreamy, scatterbrained, and gullible soul

She spends her days daydreaming. She believes in fairy tales and in whatever anyone tells her. In fact, everyone tells her nothing but the truth these days, since there is no fun in deceiving someone who believes absolutely everything.



Marco Calvi

(#20)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Edible, grinning, and malevolent.

He delights in spreading false and cruel gossip about everyone. It seems he was born from a chili pepper plant and that his head is very spicy. He is constantly afraid that someone might want to eat him or use him to season spicy dishes.



Marco Calvi

(#21)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Optimistic, vain, and moody.

Her mood shifts frequently. One moment she is cheerful, a short while later sad, then angry, then cheerful again. You never quite know how to deal with her. The other pixies consider her the most beautiful of them all; she certainly has the silkiest hair in the entire kingdom. She lives in a crystal-clear pond.



Inquiries: Daria Loi - imperfecta@studioloi.xyz

Marco Calvi

(#22)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Intelligent, cultured, and vengeful

Incredibly cultured, he possesses a vast amount of knowledge that he refuses to share with others. He maintains that if people want to know something, they must discover or learn it for themselves. If anyone attempts to uncover his secrets, he uses the venomous stinger on his head.



Inquiries: Daria Loi - imperfecta@studioloi.xyz

Marco Calvi

(#23)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Sensitive to the cold, mysterious, and charming

He hates the cold, which is why he has let his fur grow to cover his entire body. He spends his days warming himself in the sun. At night, he curls up into a ball to retain the solar heat stored during the day. He doesn't talk much to others, but he is very handsome—and he knows it.



Inquiries: Daria Loi - imperfecta@studioloi.xyz

Marco Calvi

(#24)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Gossipy, meddlesome, and nosy

She does nothing but meddle in other people's business and then tell everyone about it. If you want to know something about someone, ask her. Just remember not to tell her any secrets, or the whole kingdom will soon know.



Marco Calvi

(#25)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Quiet, a collector, and very sweet.

He does not speak; he expresses himself through gestures. He collects buttons—he has a vast number of them—yet he has never stolen a single one. He asks humans for permission to take them, and in exchange for a button, he offers a hug. He has a sensitive and gentle soul.



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Marco Calvi

(#26)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Crazy, restless, and chaotic

She isn't mean, just very restless and perhaps a bit crazy, too. She spouts nonsense and claims to predict the future, yet whenever she makes a prediction, the exact opposite happens. Perhaps she is right after all, but her power works in reverse? No one knows.



Marco Calvi

(#27)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Juggler, showman, and agile

An expert in entertainment and juggling. Less skilled at magic tricks. Very agile and flexible. Once, during a performance, he managed to tangle his arms and legs together. It took two fairies and three gnomes to untangle him.



Marco Calvi

(#28)

(Puppy Snail)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Maternal, a skilled seamstress, and affectionate.

She lives in the shell she carries on her head. She never parts ways with her puppy snail. She creates beautiful knitted items for anyone who asks. Always ready to listen and offer support.



Inquiries: Daria Loi - imperfecta@studioloi.xyz

Marco Calvi

(#29)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

An avid smoker, a perfumer, and very ancient

Only the most fragrant herbs from the garden burn in his pipe. When he smokes it, wonderful scents drift across the kingdom, making the air delightful. He is very ancient. It is said that he remembers what the world was like before the arrival of the king and queen. But do not ask him how old he is, or he will cast a curse upon you.



Inquiries: Daria Loi - imperfecta@studioloi.xyz

Marco Calvi

(#30)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Disillusioned, pessimistic, and a skilled musician.

He is highly proficient at playing every instrument. Everyone considers him a celebrity — everyone except himself. He does not believe in himself or his talent; he thinks he is mediocre and fails to recognize his own worth. This often makes him sad. Remember to reassure him and show him affection.



Inquiries: Daria Loi - imperfecta@studioloi.xyz

Marco Calvi

(#31)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Wild, fierce, and shameless

He believes himself to be a great warrior and challenges everyone he meets to a duel. He wanders about naked, without a shred of shame. He believes his body bears ancient war paint, but in reality, the markings are meaningless symbols.



Marco Calvi

(#32)

graphite, watercolors and acrylic on paper
4x6 inches unframed; 5x7 inches framed

\$ 180 (framed)

Category: Pixie

Clumsy, lazy, and envious

He watches others work but has no desire to do anything himself. Yet, he envies what they achieve through their work. He loves being comfortable and chatting with passersby.



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