About Willa

I'm **Willa Prawer**, an artist and storyteller from Pacific Palisades, California. I've been making art since I was three years old and, for more than 14 years, have spent my Saturdays in the same art class—drawing, painting, building, experimenting, and learning to tell stories through all kinds of media.

My work tends to be colorful, whimsical, expressive, and very hands-on. I love creating characters, small worlds, and pieces that feel playful and alive. Sometimes I create with a story or message in mind, and sometimes I **create just to create**. This past summer, for example, I decided to build a nearly five-foot-tall papier-mâché and mixed-media castle simply because the idea made me happy.

On this site, you'll find a sampling of my art over the years, along with my illustrated children's book, *Pesto Wants to Be Big*, a story about self-acceptance and learning to love yourself for who you are—through the eyes of a tiny mouse. You'll also find my stop-motion films *Birthday Tears* and *Skin and Bones*. Each took hundreds of hours to create, from building miniature sets by hand to sewing tiny bedding, constructing floors, adding lighting, photographs, posters, and countless small details before taking frame after frame to bring the stories to life.

Both films received recognition from the **Scholastic Art & Writing Awards**, which I'm very proud of. What I love most, though, is the process itself—the patience, problem-solving, and joy of taking something that exists only in my imagination and figuring out how to make it real.