

KNIGHT & DRAGON

Personalized Gift Illustration & Notebook Design





THE STORY

This project began as a deeply personal farewell gift for a close friend, a true dragon nerd whose fascination with dragons started with ***Game of Thrones*** and only grew from there.

His favorite dragon is ***Caraxes***, the pink dragon known for its fierce loyalty to its rider and their shared fate.

As he prepares to move abroad, carrying many belongings isn't possible. We wanted to create something small yet meaningful, a keepsake that could always be with him, reminding him of his passions and the memories shared with loved ones.

Our goal was to blend the essence of Caraxe's legacy with his own image as a knight, capturing both strength and tenderness.



PROJECT GOAL

Create a personalized illustration featuring the client's real face.

Draw inspiration from the colors and spirit of House Caraxe.

Design a functional product like a notebook he could take anywhere.

Preserve the emotional connection between the knight and the dragon.

DESIGN PROCESS

1

DISCOVER

This phase involves in-depth exploration of the problem space. The goal is to gain a deep understanding of the problem, its context, and the needs of the people affected.

2

DEFINE

Based on the insights gathered during the discovery phase, the design team defines the core project needs.

3

DEVELOP

This phase is about generating and exploring potential solutions to the defined problem. It involves brainstorming, prototyping, testing, and iterating on different ideas.

4

DELIVER

The final phase focuses on refining and delivering the chosen solution. This includes building the solution, testing it with users, and gathering feedback for further improvements.

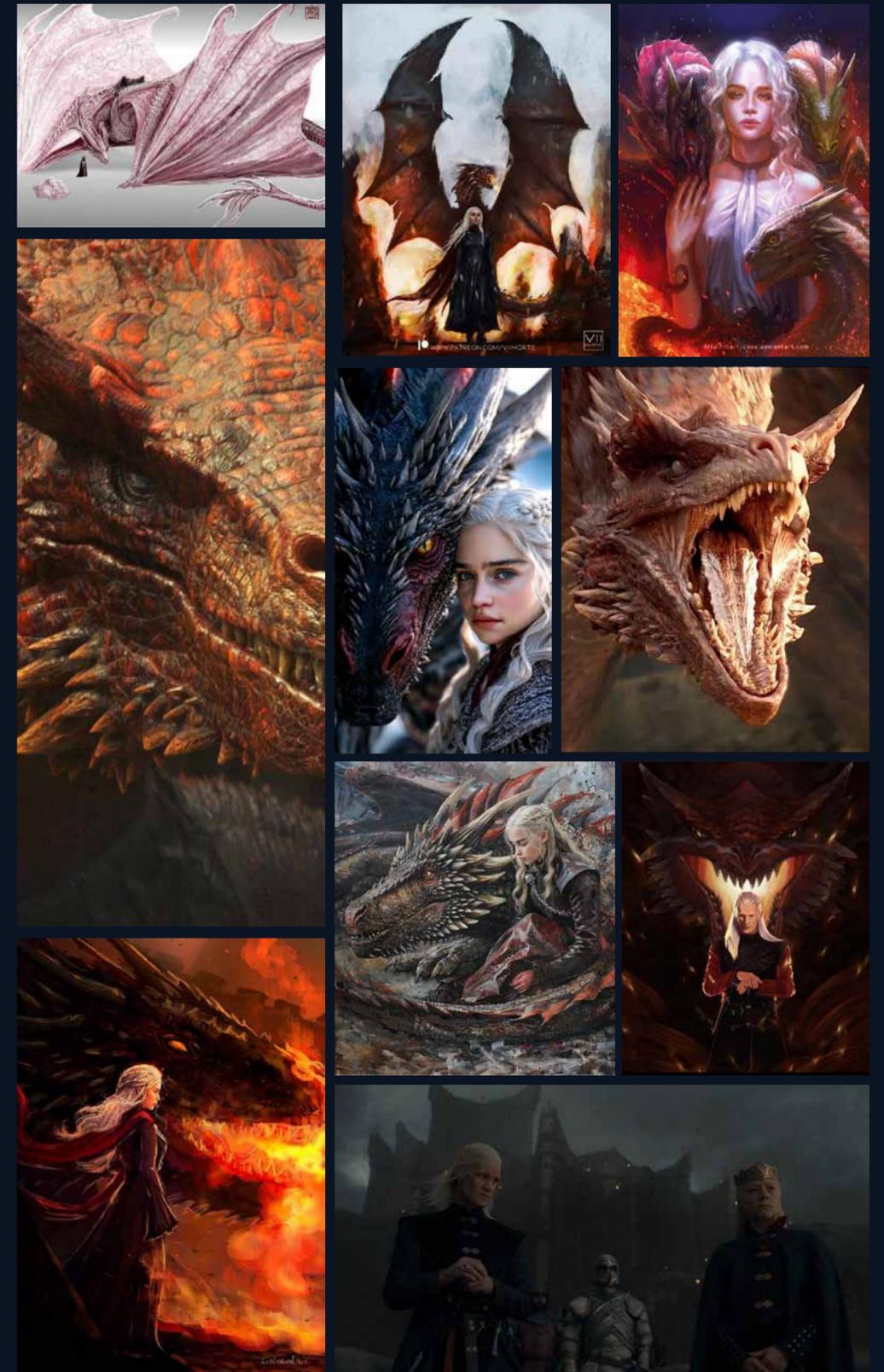


DISCOVER

To start, we immersed ourselves in the world of Game of Thrones dragons - focusing on Caraxe's pink tones and her noble, loyal personality.

We explored:

- Color palettes associated with Caraxe and its rider.
- Pose and composition ideas from fantasy art references.
- How to convey both grandeur and intimacy in one scene.



We also used AI tools to generate early composition ideas, which helped us experiment with positioning, proportions, and lighting before committing to a sketch.



2

DEFINE

After preparing the moodboard and holding brainstorming sessions with the client, we finalized the color palette and the positioning of the dragon and the knight. We then received several reference photos of the client to accurately integrate his face into the knight character before starting the illustration process.



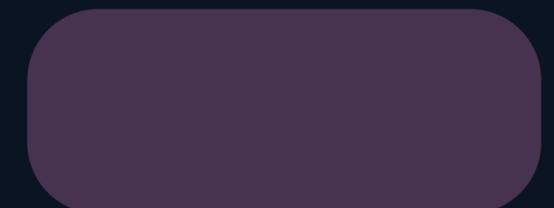
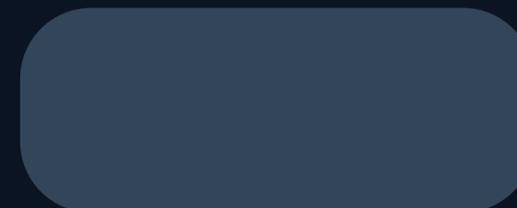
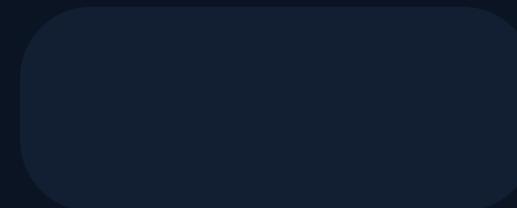
CHOSEN POSITION

**MAIN
BLUE**

**MAIN
PINK**

highlights

shadows



Once we had enough visual references, we combined AI-generated images with real photos of the client to explore character placement and expressions.

In Photoshop, we built an early photo-collage mockup - aligning the knight's stance, the dragon's position, and the interaction between them.

A hand-drawn sketch was then created to lock in the composition before moving into the final illustration stage.



3

DEVELOP

ILLUSTRATION PROCESS

01. Defined the main shapes and flat colors.
02. Added shadows and highlights to build depth.
03. Carefully crafted the dragon's textures - aiming for a balance between rugged scales and the gentle tone of the scene.

Key Challenge:

Conveying the dragon's rough texture without overpowering the overall softness of the illustration.





DELIVER

To make the gift practical as well as emotional, we printed the artwork as the cover of a custom notebook and as a poster to hang on the wall.





Receiver's Reaction:

A heartfelt moment - the recipient immediately recognized the pink dragon's link to Meleys and appreciated the deeply personal touches.

Designer's Reflection:

This project taught me the power of combining storytelling, personalization, and functionality in design.

It wasn't just about creating an image - it was about making a piece of someone's life portable.

"Sometimes, a single image can carry a story strong enough to bridge thousands of miles."

