

ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

Nienke Bruijning



"Crop Rotation" 2024, by Nienke Bruijning

Nienke Bruijning is a research assistant and illustrator with an academic background in science and technology studies (STS) and media science, through which she developed an interest in studying the intricate relationships that form between humans and the technologies we surround ourselves with on a daily basis. She has illustrated two published books within the field of STS, using drawings to visualize stories that emerge from the empirical research of her colleagues. Through visual storytelling, she has turned technological 'black boxes' into fairy tale characters and processes of digitalization into traversing unknown landscapes looming with anthropomorphized tech creatures.

In the early 2000s, Nienke moved to a rural farm in Norway from the Netherlands, finding herself mesmerized with the folklore and myth that surrounded Scandinavia. At the same time, she grew up being interested in online spaces and early internet communities. This has resulted in an eclectic art style drawing on many sources of inspiration – including the cross sections between animals, nature, pop culture, science fiction, horror, the occult, internet subcultures, virtual worlds and urban legends.

About the piece – "Crop Rotation"

The front cover art of this issue, *Crop Rotation* (2024), is inspired by the pursuit of knowledge in the career of a researcher. Going from curiously navigating an unfamiliar field, to expertly soaring the skies and eventually breaking the mold. These stages aren't tied to any linearity or timeframe, as the artist herself has experienced, they can easily occur on the same day while writing a paper. The liquidity of the dragon's body represents this state of flexibility in the face of changing demands, long working hours and bouts of self-doubt. Yet, as we enter the year of the dragon, we know it also represents wisdom and strength.

You can see more of Nienke's work on her Instagram page [@bruyning.art](https://www.instagram.com/bruyning.art)

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