



2

YEARS



Marie
2024



OF MARIE THE FOXY

By MARIE LEBOWITZ

Marie the Foxy, Emeraldshire, all characters, and places are
(c) Marie Lebowitz 2001-2026
All Rights Reserved.

HISTORY OF MARIE THE FOXY

Wow, twenty years...! Her and I have been on quite an amazing journey over the years. Many ups and downs, to this day she remains my most popular character. Let's go back together and take a look at where Marie the Foxy came from, how she subtly evolved over time, and how my art style also evolved over these past 20 years.

The year is 2006, I was 19 years old and in college in New York. I was working on a brand new female fursona. I chose a fox since foxes are my favorite animal, (they still are today). Her crimson red color was chosen because red was and still is my favorite color. I kept her design simple because far too many other furies out there have very complicated character designs with stripes and spots, and neon colors and I wanted to keep to a simple iconic design, its also a practical reason, it's just easier to draw a simple design.

Influences I had at the time, were various video games and cartoons featuring foxes. Not all the portrayals of foxes in cartoons were positive, you had the foxes from Pinocchio and Song of the South which were clearly villainous. But the positive ones were very memorable, I am sure I am not alone in crediting these vulpine protagonists who influenced the design of my fox fursona: You have Disney's Robin Hood and Maid Marian, both red foxes. There is Tails from the Sonic the Hedgehog video game series. But also there is a very popular vixen from the Star Fox video game series named Krystal who also was one of my influences.



Tails from Sonic the Hedgehog 2 and Disney's Robin Hood and Maid Marian (credit to Sega and Disney)

A lot of her cutesy silliness I credit a lot to my own quirky personality, but also to various cartoons I watched as a kid like Bugs Bunny, and shows like Lamb Chop's Play Along. I credit her happy-go-lucky, cutesy, and fun antics as why she remains popular today. There's a lot of bad news in the world, its inescapable, a lot of artists out there they focus on various injustices and the bad news of the day. I never wanted to do that, and I still don't. The world of Marie the Foxy- Emeraldshire is meant to be an escape from the bad news of this world. It's an idyllic society that encourages us to imagine a better world, and to hope for a brighter future.

THE ORIGINAL DRAWING



This is the very first Marie the Foxy picture, drawn in 2006. It almost seems like a totally different character when you compare this version of Marie to the one today. It was drawn digitally using a Wacom Graphire 3 tablet I got for my birthday back in 2004 and in Photoshop (I don't remember the version of Photoshop, I want to say Photoshop 7 perhaps...) There wasn't a lot of world building done in those days and I don't recall what her first backstory was.

AURORA THE WOLF'S ORIGINS



In Spring of 2006 I came up with Marie the Foxy's companion, a purple arctic wolf named Aurora. She had a tribal inspired character design. The two are close companions and lovers. The name Aurora came from one of two sources, it was either Sleeping Beauty or there was a character in one of the Balto movies that was named Aurora.



This 2010 Picture shows Marie and Aurora having a chat while Aurora is putting on her makeup. Aurora the Wolf had her own evolution of her character design over the years, as did most of my characters.

A question I am asked quite a lot is why are they fat? I cite the fact that I am overweight myself and I wanted the characters to resemble “me”. Also I enjoy the curvier aesthetic.

Another question I am asked a lot is why are they naked. There’s a practical reason as well as the official reason. Firstly drawing clothing is annoying, getting the folds and everything right, second they’re animals they don’t need clothing! They got fur to hide all the “naughty bits”...

The Magic Foxy Era

The Magician Marie is one of those things I don't quite remember where I got the idea from. It came about around 2010ish.



One of the earliest Magician Marie pictures from 2010.



In this 2013 piece, Marie the Foxy is “putting on the Ritz”

Her silly magician antics spawned a comic strip series named Marie’s Magical Mishaps that ran from 2012 to 2013.

Marie's Magical Mishaps

magicfoxy.com



by Marie Lebowitz

One of the earliest pages of Marie's Magical Mishaps. Don't bother going to that website, that domain name hasn't been mine in years, and I am NOT responsible for what shows up there now.

MARIE THE FOXY FURSUIT

In 2012 I had commissioned a fursuit of Marie the Foxy from a Massachusetts based maker named Blarmajin. It was a full fursuit with a head, body, paws, and a tail.

I remember picking the suit up during a trip to visit a friend of mine from the Boston metro area. We were to meet Blarmajin at a fur meet at this bowling alley in the basement of some building in Needham I think it was, or Wellesley. (Some small details start to get lost to time after 20 years.)

We met up with her off by the spectator seats in the alley. I took delivery of the fursuit. Blarmajin and I were friends for many years, unfortunately we lost contact and I don't live in the northeast anymore. I hope wherever she is, she is doing well.





Her first convention debut was AnimeNext 2012 in Somerset, New Jersey. In her first appearances I would make these cute collages of the various photos taken of me in suit.



Her first furry convention debut was Anthrocon of 2013 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. One of the largest and best furry conventions, where the city of Pittsburgh really gets into the spirit of things.

The first fursuit had some limitations, it was very hot to wear and the head lacked built in ventilation. In 2016 a second Marie the Foxy fursuit was built, it was done in house by myself, with a base from Dreamvision Creations.



Marie the Foxy Fursuit

made by Marie the Foxy

when you're color blind and can't tell
the red wire from the blue wire



Photos from the second version of the Marie the Foxy fursuit.



A special piece of Marie the Foxy memorabilia, I made this shadow box with some of my con badges and fursuiter tags I got from various conventions. The Certified tag came from an artist named Mary Mouse, the large Marie con badge in the bottom center came from an artist who at the time went by Terra, I don't know what she goes by now, I lost touch with her quite a few years ago...

THE SUNFLOWER FOX ERA

In 2014 Marie the Foxy donned her iconic sunflower, pinned to her hair next to her right ear. Sunflowers are a favorite flower of mine and I wanted to give Marie the Foxy a more hippy flower power look. A new logo for my art business was made with her happy face and new sunflower.



In some pictures the flower would change with her emotions, wilting if she is sad, it would close up at night when she sleeps, and bloom again in the morning with the daytime. It was the perfect compliment to Marie's sunny persona.



One of the first pictures featuring Marie's signature sunflower.



In this 2015 picture, Marie the Foxy has a tummy ache...



Rough sketches of the Marie the Foxy expressions from 2016.



The many faces of Marie the Foxy

Finished work of the Marie the Foxy facial expressions.



This 2016 picture shows the emotional range that's expressed by the sunflower. Marie the Foxy here is really wanting that box of cookies, and her flower is wilting because she's sad.



The flower is back to full bloom as she was able to get the cookie she wanted...

Squishy Snuggle

In 2016 I had set out to make a comic called Squishy Snuggle. It was to be a small series of Marie and Aurora having a cute date night together. It unfortunately was not finished. Aurora and Marie have become a loving and wholesome pair.



Such a cute cover! I need to finish this comic someday but the script is long gone.



Here are some pieces from 2017-2018 showing Marie and Aurora's relationship.

ARTIST ALLEY

In 2018 I was in Artist Alley for the first time at Anthrocon, I don't recall what I was selling then, I think it was just commissions. Nowadays I use Charlotte Dragoness on my logos and my art biz is called Big Lady Dragon Arts, I still sell art at conventions to this day, you can find prints, stickers, and even commission a custom piece.



CHARLOTTE DRAGONESS IS CREATED

In 2016 a new character was added to the lineup, a female dragon by the name of Charlotte. Originally she was planned to be a form that Marie shape shifts into. This is why she has the same hair and eye color as Marie the Foxy.



She became my dragonsona in 2017, and my primary fursona soon after. However Marie the Foxy still remained on the lineup and the two are very close friends. Marie art slowed down in 2018-2019 compared to newer Charlotte pictures but Marie the Foxy remained popular.

Charlotte's name came from a character in the anime series *Puella Magi Madoka Magica*. Her body shape and face are designed similar to mine. Her body also is based on a Crocodile, particularly her tail, her hands and feet, and her snaggletooth. Originally she had a more darker and moody personality but she got more cutesy and cuddly around the early 2020s. During the late 2010's and early 2020's her design went through some slight changes, particularly with the hip spots, her jewelry, and her hairstyle.

Charlotte Dragoness as of 2021 is my primary fursona. She is on my business cards, and the signage on my artist alley tables as well as my website: bigladydragon.art



In this 2022 picture, we see Charlotte and Marie the Foxy remain very close, as well as showing off some new friends.

Later on in this book we will go over the development of Marie's friends. Many characters came and went, but the main 6 have stayed pretty constant. Marie the Foxy, Aurora the Wolf, Charlotte Dragoness, Sally Mare, Callie Skunk, and her mate Cicero Skunk.

MODERN TIMES

Some of Marie's most iconic art pieces have been drawn in the late 2010's into the 2020's. Her character design added some native inspired jewelry, such as bracelets. Many art from this time was done traditionally in Marker and Watercolor.



This fun 2019 picture shows Marie the Foxy frolicking in a sunflower field.



More examples of Marie's adorable and fun nature from 2019-2020.



This 2020 picture of Marie the Foxy eating a watermelon is framed and hanging up at my parent's house.



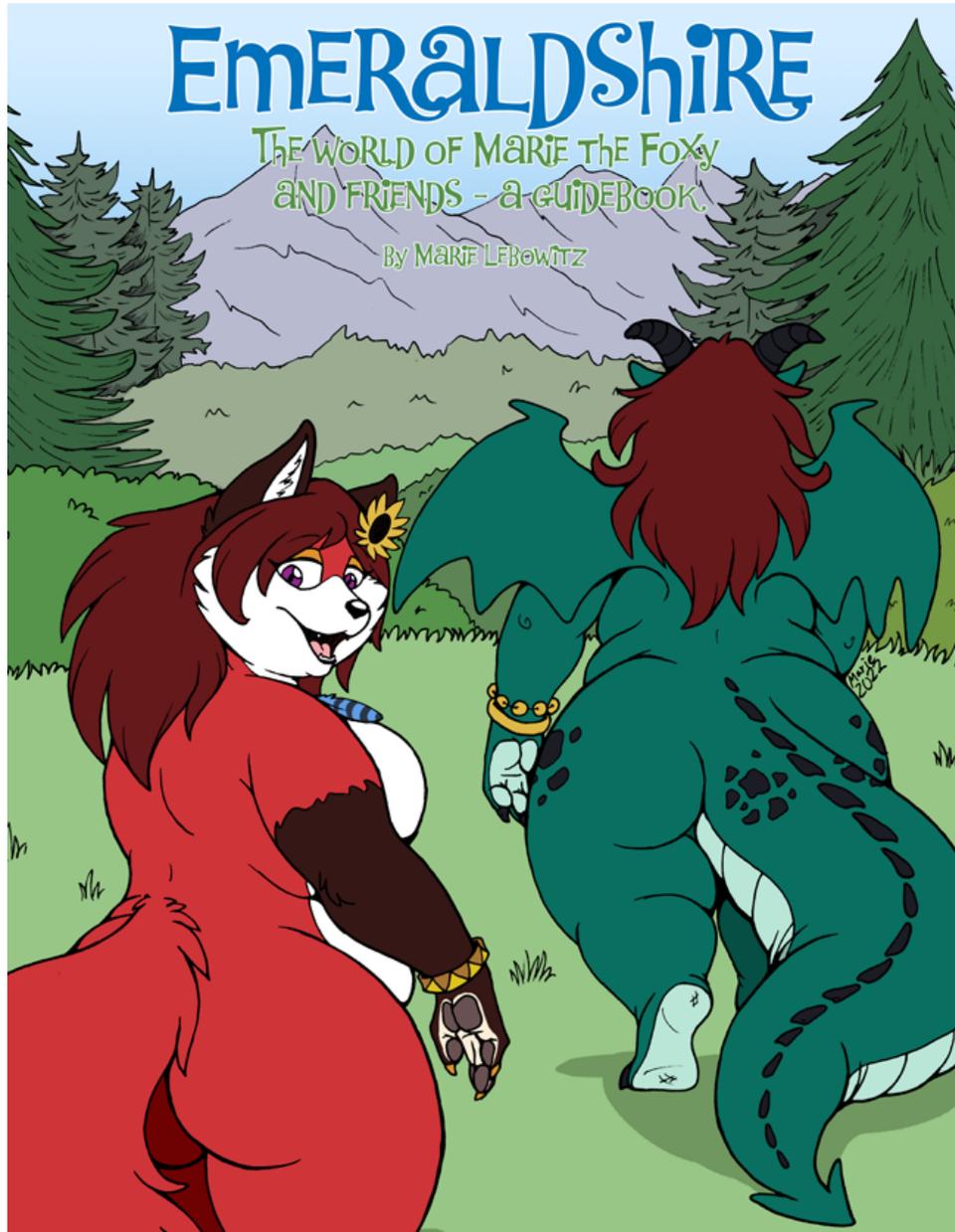
Early 2020's artwork showing Marie and Aurora's relationship.



In these times the forest world started to get more fleshed out, even getting a name: Emeraldshire.

EmERALDShiRE

In 2022, during a few month unemployment stint, I set off to bring all the small disjointed ideas of their lore and world together in one place, collated and organized. My first idea was to have a large wikipedia style website. But as I was writing the documents, it became more of a book.



The e-book cover from the world building guide that I had copies printed for sale. The book went into deep detail about the world, the characters, the rituals, the climate. As of this writing in 2025, the book is being revised and republished as a Second Edition with a release date of 2026.

By then there was a consistent cast of characters besides the main three. Sally Mare, a brown quarter horse, she has a down to earth, country gal vibe. Her jewelry is inspired by the turquoise tribal jewelry the southwest natives wore. Calumet and Cicero Skunks, a mated pair of striped skunks. The name Calumet came to me on a roadtrip to Minneapolis, we were stuck in traffic in Indiana right before you enter Illinois and there was a sign with the name “Calumet Ave” likewise Cicero’s name came from a road sign I saw as well. Their unusual names was to emphasize that skunks tended to historically been outcasts and kept to themselves. Many would travel like gypsies across the villages and some like Calumet and Cicero are bards.



This 2023 picture showed the five main female characters in the lineup.

Not pictured in the above photo is Julia Blue Jay, my first bird character. It was a bit of a challenge learning how to draw beaks in a way they can display human-style facial expressions.

By 2023 I had returned to digital art using Adobe Fresco, an iPad Air, and an Apple Pencil. The portable setup allowed me to bring my iPad to work and on my lunch break get some art work done.



2023-2024 digital art of Marie the Foxy.



A modern look at Marie the Foxy's magician outfit, drawn in 2024.



Marie the Foxy's Sunflower garden. In her village she has a large garden full of Sunflowers. This picture is also featured on the cover of this very book!



2025 picture of Marie the Foxy on her knees.

MARIE THE FOXY AT 20

Today Marie the Foxy remains a lovable and popular character in my work. Her innocent and cutesy charm persists to this day. She is loving and playful, a carefree spirit without a mean bone in her body. I plan to feature her prominently in my artwork for many many years to come. As I am in my late thirties at the time of this writing, I plan to continue to draw furry art and enjoy furry conventions for many years to come. There is still many more adventures to be had for the sunflower fox and her friends.

In future I plan to explore more the friendship between Charlotte Dragon and Marie the Foxy. In the comic series Charlotte's Tale, we see Marie the Foxy is the one who discovers Charlotte wandering alone in the forest and she brings her into the village where she is welcomed. I also am planning to reboot the Squishy Snuggles small comic series in the coming years to explore Marie and Aurora's loving relationship.

I thank each and every one of you for continuing to love and enjoy Marie the Foxy and the rest of my work. I would not be here without the support of my friends, family, and my fans and supporters.

