

# **Wish You Were Here: *James Adam Labuen Garcia aka gaNyan***

## **When did you live in the Bay Area, and what brought you here?**

I moved to the Bay to finish my BA in Art Studio at San Francisco State University in 1999. I visited a couple times prior to moving and fell in love with the City and the culture and decided to make it my home for many years. I still consider the Bay Area my 2nd home.

## **What prompted you to leave?**

In 2014 I graduated from Cal State University Monterey Bay's Graduate Science Illustration Program. I packed my bags to do an internship on Kauai at the National Tropical Botanical Gardens where I illustrated wildlife and plants on the grounds for a few months. After Hawaii I traveled to Kyoto, Japan to co-illustrate a book on Japanese Anthropology at the Research Institute of Humanity and Nature, and after that I moved to Washington DC to apprentice under Taina Litwak, a resident Science Illustrator at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

## **Where did you end up?**

After a couple of years traveling for work, I decided to move back to my hometown of Palm Springs to be closer to family.

## **Has your artwork changed or evolved since you left the Bay Area?**

It has...I primarily work digitally to create illustrations and design work, and I feel my personal work is more purposeful and polished these days in comparison to the work I exhibited at Studio Gallery in the past. Back then I was creating characters on the whim, which I still enjoy doing, and I plan to revisit some of the concepts I had for future projects. In regards to subject matter I do a lot of wildlife and experiment with creating simple landscapes, where in the past my backgrounds were more abstract and minimal.

## **What are you up to now?**

I work as a freelance graphic artist in Palm Springs, and I am developing a new series of works and designs under my middle names Adam Labuen. Looking to launch a new website in the summer with a more fun and diverse portfolio with merchandise to sell. Currently you can find me my science illustration work on [www.adamlabuen.com](http://www.adamlabuen.com) and find me on Instagram under the same name.