



Contact: press@speculativeliterature.org

Press Release #64

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sofiia Melnyk's "Sir Spacediver 3020" Selected as Speculative Literature Foundation's 2020 Illustration of the Year

January 2020—The Speculative Literature Foundation has chosen its 2020 Illustration of the Year, for a piece of artwork that combines elements of science fiction and fantasy as well as incorporating the SLF's literary focus. Sofiia Melnyk is the artist whose piece was chosen Illustration of the Year.

The 2020 Illustration of the Year, entitled "Sir Spacediver 3020," was inspired by a tabletop game being developed by a friend of Melnyk's, which incorporates both science fictional and fantastical elements in a dystopian future world. The judges agreed that they were captivated by the world depicted in Melnyk's piece and imagined a library of books stored in the ship's cargo.

Melnyk is a Ukrainian illustrator and animator living in Germany. She has a degree in animation from the Animationsinstitut of the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. Melnyk says that, "I prefer to use analogue techniques like acrylics, charcoal or ink; in my digital work I try to reach an analogue look."

Melnyk's winning piece will be featured throughout 2020 on the Speculative Literature Foundation's website and on social media. In addition, it may be featured in limited edition SLF-related marketing materials, such as bookmarks and pins.

Founded in January 2004 to promote literary quality in speculative fiction, the Speculative Literature Foundation is led by Mary Anne Mohanraj. The Foundation maintains a comprehensive website offering information for readers, writers, editors and publishers of speculative fiction, develops book lists and outreach materials for schools and libraries, and raises funds for redistribution to other organizations in the field. In addition to the Illustration of the Year prize, it also awards five grants annually to writers, including the Diverse Worlds and Diverse Writers Grants. For more information, visit speculativeliterature.org.

The SLF is a 501(c)3 non-profit, entirely supported by community donations. If you'd like to be involved with our efforts, please consider joining us as a member. Memberships are available at as low as \$2/month, at speculativeliterature.org/membership.

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