



Art bible

Guidelines for the visual style of the game



General

- Combination of stylized 2D &
 3D
- Simple, clear shapes
- Mostly using natural colors; saturated colors to appeal to target audience.



Hand-painted, cartoony textures; details can be painted on the model to keep the poly count low.



2D assets

 Flat colors & cel shading, dark outline.





Illustrated cutscenes with multiple panels can make use of a limited color palette without shading to save production time & give a comic-like look to the illustrations at the same time.

3D environmental assets

For the environment of the current prototype we are currently using a combination of the following third-party asset packs:



Fantasy Adventure Environment by Staggart Creations

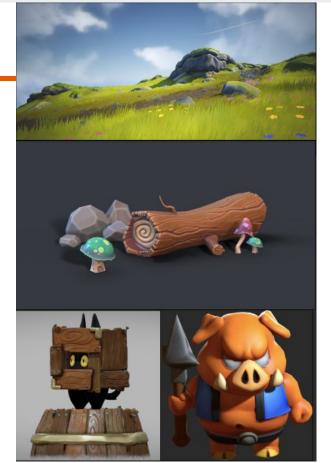


Fantasy forest environment by TriForge Assets



Sinuous Shrooms by Thomas Rasor

General art style & textures



General art style



Texture style

Shaders / VFX

To achieve certain visual effects in our current prototype we are using the following third party asset packs:



Cartoon FX Free by Jean Moreno



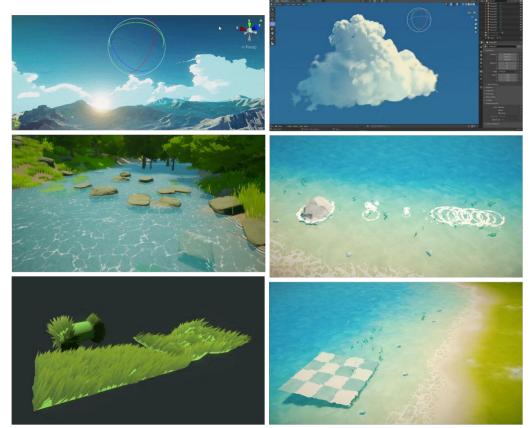
Customizable skybox by Key Mouse



Water effect by pure evil studio

Shaders / VFX

- Using textures similar to environment
- Hand painted style
- Used for water, grass, sky

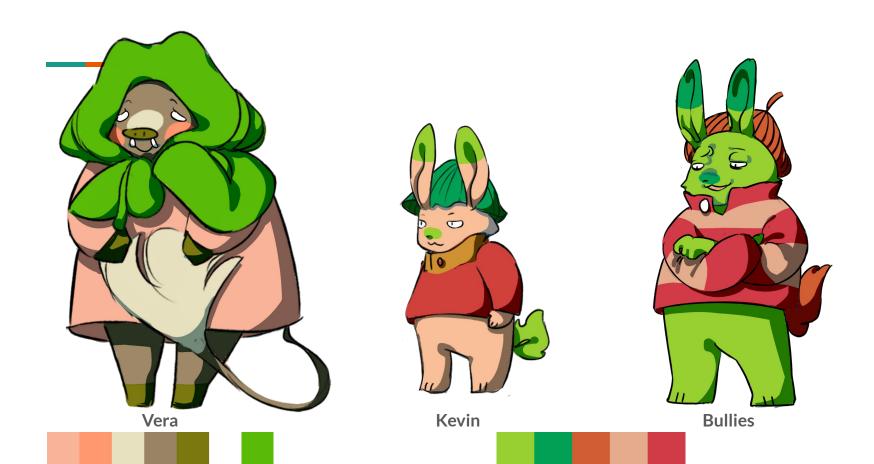


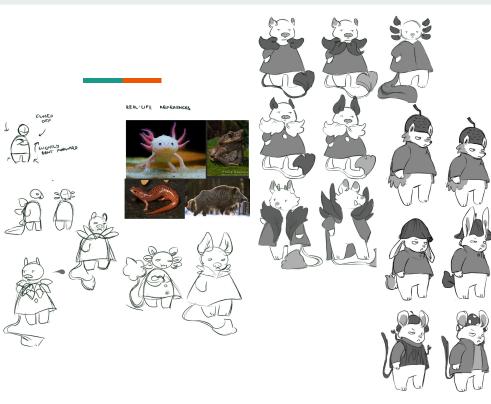
Images via pinterest.com & Google images

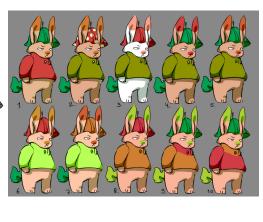
Moodboard environmental shaders



Character art Character designs









Gather inspiration for character (moodboard) & rough sketches



More detailed sketches based on previous sketches

Color experiments

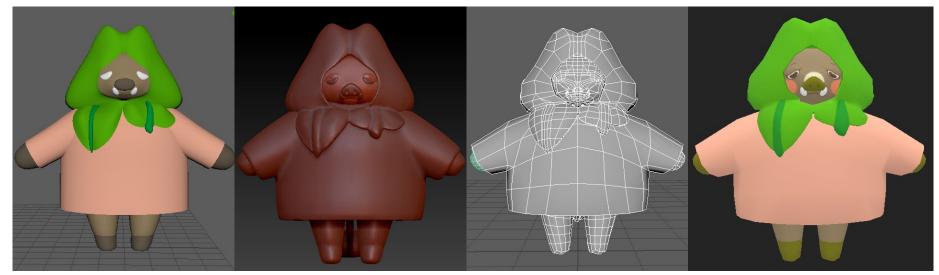


Final design

3D production workflow

Testing model in Mixamo (before UV unwrap & texturing)





3D blockout from 2D design (Maya)



Adding details (ZBrush)



Retopo (Using ZRemesher in ZBrush, then tweaking by hand in Maya)



Texturing (Substance painter)

Camera



Neutral perspective: Third-person over-the-shoulder perspective



As player engages in dialogue with NPC an overlay pops up with UI dialogue elements & character sprites; background slightly darkens.

Level of details



Slight fog in background blurs objects in background & helps draw player's attention to the foreground.

2D character sprites allow for showing details such as facial expressions etc. when engaged in dialogue

Atmosphere

- Environment will gradually become lighter & more open as the player progresses through the game; player starts in the middle of the forest and reaches the border at the end of the game.
- Generally more saturated colors (most appealing for target audience). Lots of greens, blues, browns; colors associated with nature.
- Sunny weather, slightly foggy; fog adds a sense of mystery to the area.



Player and other characters are quite small compared to the forest; larger-than normal plants add to the magical feeling of the forest.

Reference / Moodboards Environment atmosphere & colors



Beginning of the game

End of the game

Environment - first area

- The heart of the forest; a bit darker than the other areas due to the dense vegetation.
- Should evoke a feeling of mystery and wonder; purple-ish colors give a "magical" and mysterious feeling.
- Should not feel too dark or scary since this is the first impression the player will have of the game; darker colors are balanced with shades of blue & green, which give off a pleasant feeling.



Environment - second area

- A place of rest; should give the player a peaceful feeling.
- Lighter shades of blue, green and warmer shades to give the area a calming & natural feeling.
- The forest is still quite dense in this part of the game, but there is a lot more sunlight compared to the previous area.



Environment - third area

- The border of the forest. The lightest area; lots of water.
- Should give the player a feeling of freedom
- Lots of light, very few plants blocking light from the sun.



Characters

- Character colors are generally a bit brighter and lighter than the environment to make the characters stand out.
- Lots of natural colors as well to really make the characters that live in the environment feel like a part of the forest.



User Interface

- 1. UI (User Interface)
- Game menu structure
- In-game interface (heads-up display)
- Interactive buttons with responsive animation
- Size ratio depending of screen size
- 2. UX (User Experience)
- Clear and easy to navigate for players
- The game font should give handwritten feeling, thus Reguloza and Coming Soon are used as fonts
- UI style should be involved with nature
- 3. Color palette should be suitable for kids, simple and clear to navigate



User Interface

- 1. Dialog box (top picture)
- Wooden plank with paper on top of it
- 2. Pop-up box (bottom picture)
- Additional information
- New information learned
- 3. Leaf as UI clickable button



Technical guidelines

- Software:
- Game Engine: Unity
- 2D: Adobe Photoshop, Paint Tool SAI
- Textures: Substance Painter and Designer
- 3D: Autodesk Maya, ZBrush
- Technical restrictions
- Polycount of 3D models: 1000 ~ 12000

- Used format
- Images: .png .jpg
- Models: .obj .fbx
- 3D models should be simple and understandable for the player.

Audio

Technical guidelines

Tools to use

DAW

- Cubase Will be used for compositions
- Reaper Will be used for most sound design

Middleware

 FMOD – More knowledge of than WWISE, potential problems with git if versions are not the same, keep extra look to not auto update FMOD.

Game Engine

Unity - most accessible game engine within the team

Libraries

- Spitfire audio Albion one, tundra
- East West Orbit
- Cinematic perc
- Cinematic strings
- Serum
- Helm Synth

Naming conventions exports/imports

FMOD Soundbanks:

Туре	BankName
Ambient sounds	Ambient
All character sounds	Character
All Dynamic music	Music

Audio moodboard

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1YSIyoQFExyaVZDkVFiHM0?si=e9cf67e59f5c48ce