

LITTLE GESTALTEN

SPRING 2020

Beyond the Horizon

Background Q&A with illustrator Carolina Celas [for the press](#)

Question by Little Gestalten:

Hello Carolina,

you are publishing your picture book with Little Gestalten next year on the 4th of February, 2020, in Europe (which includes the United Kingdom) and on the 31st of March, 2020, internationally (which does not include North America but does include South East Asia, Africa, the Middle East as well as Australia and New Zealand).

We would like to provide the press with some background material about *Beyond the Horizon* and would therefore like to ask you if you could to tell us a little bit more about the history of the book and how you came up with the idea for the illustrations for it?

Answer by Carolina Celas, author and illustrator of the picture book *Beyond the Horizon*:

“For each one of us, seeing the horizon has a different meaning. Every individual connects personal stories to the horizon and in my picture book *Beyond the Horizon* I would like to show that the horizon can serve as a metaphor for our everyday lives. In the picture book I address the horizon as each one of us perceives it personally through their own eyes and not some kind of universal reality.

Since I began working on the book project, I wanted to deal with the topics chance and being open to change. As a pathway, the horizon arises as a metaphor for something that is permanently in our lives but constantly under construction. Sometimes we lose our pathway, sometimes we need imagination to get back on track, and other times we simply need to be patient in order to get back on track. And we don't always have the ability to see our pathway and the horizon, both physically and emotionally. My aim was to deal with a complex subject matter and to make it accessible for children to experience in this book but also for adults likewise. The horizon is a conjunction of a poetic journey that is visualised as a line that goes through the book, then leading into our inner world. With the book, *Beyond the Horizon*, I invite the reader to follow a line in order to explore their own aspirations in life through emotions, perceptions, abstraction, imagination, and quotidian spaces.

In addition to following that line, I introduce certain characters along the pages, who react to the changing appearances of the horizon in different ways. By using this method, I would like to visualise the journey that we are all on. One special character in the book, I don't know if you have spotted it yet, is the little green figure (who is like all other characters in the book not named but I call it "MacGuffin"). This little figure appears in different ways, sometimes it is green, other times it is transparent and sometimes it is waiting at another place. The narrative following the line, open spaces and the little green figure have become important parts of the book process.

When we look at the horizon, we see multiple layers of messages. With my book I would like to show that we need to look at the horizon more than once to be able to find our line."

Carolina used markers, wax and coloured pencils to draw the illustrations for *Beyond the Horizon*.

**Little Gestalten: Thank you very much for responding to our questions
Carolina. We wish you a lot of success with the book!**

Short Biography of Carolina Celas

Lisbon-based illustrator Carolina Celas works as a freelance author who uses different mediums in her storytelling, where fiction and reality regularly overlap. Through her humor and attention to detail, the reader is taken into the realms of the fantastical and surreal.

Carolina has finished her artist in residence with the **La Foresta Collective** in Berlin end of October, 2019. The program was about forests, and the objective was to create books and narratives in order to understand how children and adults express

their feelings through images. The workshop consisted of one week in a primary school with six to seven year-old children, two days with adults in the Bode Museum and at the botanical garden.

With **HORIZON**, which is an independent project for Carolina, she already did several talks and workshops for kids and students at universities, talking about the book and her creative process. She would be available for further workshops in Berlin or London in March 2020. Kindly let us know if you would like to request a workshop for children and adults with Carolina.

This interview may be used by press in conjunction with book reviews of *Beyond the Horizon* or features about Carolina Celas.