

María Yolanda Núñez Medina

Artist • Naturalist-Scientific Illustrator • Science Communicator

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Location: Chile

Profile

Interdisciplinary science illustrator with a background in **marine biology, naturalist illustration, and science communication**. Experience collaborating with researchers in Chile, the UK, Brazil, and Spain to create **scientific illustrations, field guides, educational materials, and visual outreach resources**. Skilled in laboratory- and field-based scientific work, public engagement, and visual communication focused on marine ecosystems, biodiversity, oceanography, and climate change.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Scientific & Naturalist Illustrator (Freelance)

Chile, Spain, Brazil, Scotland, others | 2023 – Present

- Designed and produced scientific illustrations, species identification guides, and educational materials for research labs and academic publications.
- Developed visual assets focused on complex biological topics, including marine microbiology, plankton biodiversity, and ecological change, to support both scientific analysis and public outreach.
- Notable collaborations: **Dr. Catherine Ribeiro Gerikas (Brazil)**, **Dr. David Moreno (Spain)** and **Dr. Clare Bird (Scotland)**.

Scientific Illustration Course — Hojalata.cl

Scientific Illustration Instructor | 2025

- Led theoretical lectures and practical sessions, providing technical guidance and personalized mentorship to aspiring scientific illustrators.
- Conducted critical reviews of student portfolios, offering constructive feedback on accuracy, technique, and composition.

Workshop Facilitator & Science Communicator — Wild Wonder Foundation (Grant Recipient)

2025 – 2024

- Designed and facilitated nature journaling workshops tailored for public health professionals and community groups, fostering interdisciplinary learning.
- Developed a specialized curriculum integrating scientific observation, artistic expression, and environmental awareness to promote connection with nature.

Scientific Communicator & Illustrator — UK-CL DETECTORS Project

2024 – 2023

- Developed multi-format educational resources, including infographics, illustrated field guides, and species tables, to synthesize complex concepts in paleoceanography, foraminifera taxonomy, and marine ecology.
- Produced audiovisual content (videos and interviews) to disseminate research findings to broader audiences.

-Presented at science fairs and public events, facilitating community engagement with ocean and climate research.

Assistant & Science Communicator — Institute of Ecology and Biodiversity (IEB)

2023 – 2022

- Coordinated public engagement initiatives and outreach events to promote ecological awareness.
- Facilitated research dissemination, translating complex scientific findings into accessible content for non-specialized audiences.
- Co-developed and designed public-facing science materials, ensuring accuracy and visual appeal.

Research Assistant (Internship) — IFOP (Fisheries Development Institute)

2019

- Executed field sampling and population dynamics analysis of the Mollusca *Choromytilus chorus* in the Putemún ecosystem.
- Contributed biological data and technical inputs for the publication "Biodiversity of the Putemún Marine Reserve and Wetland".

Undergraduate Research Assistant — Adolfo Ibáñez University

2017 – 2018

- Supported experimental research assessing the impacts of climate change on Antarctic marine life.
- Contributed to the project "Multiple Stressors of Global Change in the Western Antarctic Ecosystem", assisting with data collection and laboratory protocols.

EDUCATION

B.Sc. in Marine Biology

Pontifical Catholic University of Chile | **2019**

Diploma in Digital Skills (Scholarship Recipient)

Alberto Hurtado University | **2024**

Diploma in Naturalistic Illustration & Scientific Outreach

Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (Chile Crea Scholarship) | **2023**

Diploma in Digital Marketing & Strategic Management; Diploma in Web Design & Programming (Scholarship Recipient)

AIEP / SENCE / Fundación Telefónica Movistar | **2022**

Diploma in Risks Associated with Extreme Atmospheric and Oceanographic Events (Scholarship Recipient)

University of Valparaíso | **2022 – 2021**

SKILLS

Traditional Illustration

Graphite • Ink • Watercolor • Colored Pencils • Linocut • Serigraphy • Biological Illustration

Digital Tools

Adobe Photoshop (Intermediate) • Illustrator (Intermediate) • InDesign • PowerDirector • Synfig Studio • Microsoft Office • Google Workspace

Creative & Scientific Skills

Scientific & Naturalist Illustration • Visual Science Communication • Species Identification

- Field & Lab Work • Educational Content Creation • Exhibition Design

Soft Skills

Creativity • Collaboration • Adaptability • Initiative • Time Management • Attention to Detail

Languages

Spanish (Native) • English (Intermediate–Advanced)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS (Selected)

- Designing Effective Science Communication — University of Colorado Boulder (2024)
- Scientific Communication for Researchers — IAI (2024)
- Mastering Science Communication — IGEM (2024)
- Robsonella Professionalization Course in Scientific Illustration (2024)
- Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign (Domestika, 2023)
- Visual Language in Ink Illustration (Domestika, 2023)
- Academic English Writing Specialization — UC Irvine (2020)

AWARDS & HONORS (Selected)

- Winner — **Gato Guiña Illustration Contest**, 2025
- Honorable Mention — **Jot Down Illustration Competition**, 2025
- Third Place — **Astro-poetic – Scientific Writing**, 2025
- Honorable Mention — **ALMA Astronomical Painting Exhibition**, 2023
- Honorable Mention — **The Micropalaeontological Society Calendar**, 2022

EXHIBITIONS (Selected)

- *Loyca* — *Laboratory of Crafts and Artistic Creation* — Centro Comunitario Matta Sur, 2025
- *Regenerar – SDGs* — Museo Interactivo Mirador, 2024
- *Animal* — Taller Hormiga, Galería 3.14, 2024
- *Soy el Plancton, Viviendo con Bajo Oxígeno en el Mar* — Museo de Historia Natural de Concepción (MHNC), 2023
- *Nuevos Imaginarios: Ser Mar en Tiempos de Cambio* — Catholic University of the Most Holy Conception, 2022
- **Virtual Exhibitions:** *Illustrated Central Coast 2021 • Marine Patagonia 2021 • Ichthyological Illustration 2022*

PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Scientific and science communication project reviewer

Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation · Chile · 2025

Evaluation of thesis proposals and scientific and science communication projects, including applications for public and private funding, commissioned by governmental institutions and developed in collaboration with public research centres.

Memberships and professional networks

Member of Geolatinas, Corallina, ECOP Chile, PO₂ – Past Ocean Oxygenation, and Club de Arte Transcordillerano (2024–present).

Science–art workshops and outreach activities

Design and delivery of science–art workshops through voluntary engagement and/or competitive selection processes, in museums, universities, community programmes, senior centres, and public and private healthcare institutions, including the Museo Interactivo Mirador (MIM), Museo de Historia Natural de Concepción (MHNC), and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC).

Scientific publications and research collaboration

Physiological responses of juvenile Chilean scallops to environmental drivers of coastal upwelling

ICES Journal of Marine Science · 2019

Role: research collaboration and participation throughout different stages of the study.

Who is who in the foraminiferal world: taxonomic revision of selected species

Journal of Foraminiferal Research · 2025

Role: scientific collaboration; development of an illustrated abstract and support in visual and content review.
