

Jacqueline Qin

My focus was on designing quirky character to visual represent a small aspect of the ADHD experience. It turned out to be a pretty fun endeavour, as I got to experiment with some unconventional visual design choices to convey the abstract, chaotic existence of someone with ADHD. I wanted to give the character a feeling and look that it is barely holding itself together. One standout feature that emphasised that was giving the character a body made entirely of a single string. Combined with the derpy fishbowl that acts as the head of the body, it opens infinite new possibilities with how a character with a body that defies physics could move. In many of my previous animations, I often resort to awkwardly filming myself re-enacting specific movements to aid me in my animation process. Thus, to figure out how string can mimic the movement and weight of a human body with limbs, I shot a reference video of myself trying to balance a volleyball. It helped me grasp how weight distribution and balance work in the human form, and I tried to replicate that in my animation. To visually communicate the weight of the head through the character's performance, I opted to have the string limbs squash and stretch like springs to emphasise the distribution of weight. So rather than the bending of what would be the character's knees, the part of the string-body would compress like a spring to support the body weight.

Tools (iPad):

FlipaClip – rough sketch

Procreate – Line art and colouring