

About the Artist

David Scheffer and Juliet Sorensen's accounts of the Rwandan Genocide were both moving and enlightening. I was immediately drawn to their compelling stories explaining the intersections between the Rwandan Genocide, international justice, and public health systems. As an illustrator, I knew that depicting this story would be a challenge but it was important to tell visually. I chose to metaphorically represent the gruesome nature of the genocide and its impact on the public health system. War-torn Rwanda is depicted as a large open wound that cannot be contained by the country's borders, symbolizing the damaging nature of the genocide and its impact on neighboring countries. Doctors work to stitch the area back together, representing the burden carried by healthcare workers to heal the physical and emotional wounds of the war. Great care was taken in rendering the wound. The realistic nature of the wound and the dramatic composition of the continent grabs the attention of the viewer and allows them to engage with the sensitive topic of genocide without being off-putting. At the same time, I wanted to show how there will be a newly healed Rwanda with improvements in public health.



Wai-Man Chan is a Chicago-based medical illustrator. Originally from Miami, FL, she received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Miami in 2010. She is currently a Master of Science candidate in Biomedical Visualization at the University of Illinois at Chicago, a field that allows her to communicate complex science and biological topics through the power of illustration. In her free time, you can usually find her exploring Chicago's restaurants, watching a good nature documentary, and spending time with her pets.