

Kelly

The
Fables
of
Sanbras

Mary
Simnarpah



The Fables of Sanbras, 2023.

Can you spot the little girl in a school uniform? This is Sanbras. She was created by the artist Kelly Sinnapah Mary and writer Chris Cyrille. Sanbras is a bit of a naughty girl, and she has big dreams. Just like the artist, she lives in the Caribbean on the French island Guadeloupe. Sanbras' fantasy is to run away, not only from school but from the world she lives in. Together with the other children and the animals of Guadeloupe, Sanbras would like to start a new world in the mangrove.

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The mangrove is a type of tree or shrub that you can find on Guadeloupe and other tropical coasts. Mangrove forests grow in shallow seas, and the trees have big roots that grow partly above the water. The mangrove forest is very important for the people and the animals on the island of Guadeloupe. One reason is that the animals can find shelter between the roots and between the leaves. Together with the other children and the animals, Sanbras is looking for solutions that will fix some of their problems. She feels that the mangrove could become their safe haven.

The drawings you can see were made by Kelly Sinnapah Mary, who drew them in an old book. The book is called *La Fontaine's Fables* and it was written by Jean de la Fontaine in the year 1668. This famous French book was part of the artist's childhood education. The artist had to read this book in French because France colonized Guadeloupe, and therefore one of the national languages on the island is French. Kelly Sinnapah Mary takes this book and turns the story into her own by drawing Sanbras, along with other characters and their stories, over the original pages.



Tip!
CLICK OR SCAN
to hear more
about the stories
of Sanbras



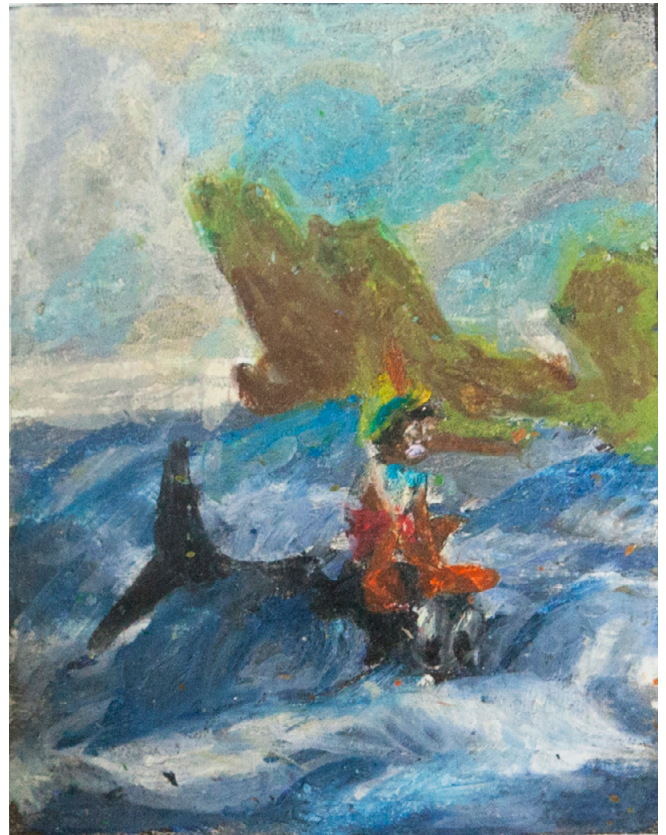
The most famous fable in *La Fontaine's Fables*, the book with the drawings in it, is called *The Fox and the Crow*. Look at the images from the book on this page and on the next. You may recognize figures from the Bible, Pinocchio, or from other fairy tales.

Now you know a bit about Sanbras and the artist's drawings, here are some activities. Find a pencil and print this page, or use another piece of paper to work on.

1. Underneath the artist's drawings, you can still see traces of the original illustrations. Can you find the fox hidden behind Kelly Sinnapah Mary's drawings? Make a circle around it.

2. Sanbras dreams about running away from school and the world she lives in. If you could run away from something, a place or a situation, what would it be? An example: I would like to run away from doing homework.

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3a.
Find a book with images inside, and make sure it is no longer being used. You can also use a newspaper or a magazine that contains images. Search through the book, newspaper, or magazine for an image that looks similar to what you would like to run away from. Cut out the page with the image on it.

3b.
If you could create a safe haven just like Sanbras, which of these things would you definitely include? Circle two.

3c.
Describe what your safe haven looks like in one sentence, and use the two words you circled.

3d.
Take the page that you cut out of the book, newspaper, or magazine. Now it's time to draw the safe haven you have created. Just like Kelly Sinnapah Mary did, draw your safe haven over the image that is already there. You can use crayons, colored pencils, paint, or markers.

3e.
Take a photo of your drawing and send it to activiteiten@kunstinstituutmelly.nl. We will upload the photo of your drawing to the website of [Kunstinstituut Melly](http://KunstinstituutMelly.nl), so everyone can see it.



- mangrove trees
- flowers
- a pool
- the sea
- a waterfall
- family
- a slide
- sunshine
- animals

3c. Describe your safe haven here:

Concept & Development: Emmelie Mijs
Design: Loes Verstappen
Photography: Kristien Daem
Copy editing: Pilar Mata Dupont, Harriet Foyster, Wendy van Slagmaat-Bos.
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