

Interview with Jill Enders:

March 14th, 2017

- You are a graphic designer and the author of the drawings for the book *The discrete charm of the intestine* written by Giulia Enders. Were you immediately enthusiastic about the idea of drawing the digestive system?

Yes.

It's my job to understand things and explain them in a simple and nice way, so that people get curious and have fun while learning something new. The gut was a perfect theme because it is something that everyone of us has but also something we know very little about. If you have a better understanding of your gut, it's easier to appreciate it and treat it well.

- How was the collaboration with your sister Giulia Enders? Have you given free rein to your imagination, or has your sister suggested ideas to you?

Even though everyone has its own field – Giulia is writing, I am illustrating– we share a lot of thoughts and juggle ideas back and forth. Sometimes the idea goes into a text or in an illustration. Our collaboration is so fruitful because no one tells the other what to do but we both like to play.

- Did you encounter any difficulties in drawing this part of the anatomy?

I wanted to show an inner body-world but not something you know out of old anatomy books. I wanted to illustrate a new world with a bit of fantasy but each illustration should transport a true and clear message. To invent this world was a bit difficult but also fun.

- Where did you draw your inspiration from?

A lot comes from my environment. For example the little guy at the exit of the sphincter: The role model is an ex-roommate of my boyfriend. He works in politics, is very polite, cares a lot about his appearance and feels always responsible for many people. This was a nice picture for the functions of the outer sphincter.

- You also created the drawings of the book *Healing Alzheimer* by Michaël Nels. What motivated you to participate again in the illustration of a scientific work?

I always mix design and science. My diploma for example was a project where I connected scientist and designer. They made a special presentation about the topic of the scientist. At the end they performed it on stage. It was quite successful and encouraged me to work on other scientific projects that I like.

Healing Alzheimer is a new approach that makes sense to me. Most Doctors said you can't heal Alzheimer but Michael Nels is like my sister. They think outside the box. I find his these very courageous and revolutionary.

- Do you envisage a new collaboration with your sister?

Yes, but this is a surprise.