



Ludwig '25

"Foo-Kraken"

Tentacles will be  
re-coordinated  
Free hand drawn  
directly

Few other details  
proposals for knee  
or back of the  
calf

Chances to play  
around the  
ankle or foot



# Technical Sheet

Project Title: FOO -KRAKEN

Year: 2024-25

Technique: Digital illustration, conceived for tattoo ink application

Medium: Tattoo — custom, site-specific, body-adapted

Process: The project originates as a digitally developed illustration and is conceived specifically for realization through tattooing.

While the guardian's face retains a structured and frontal composition, the tentacular extensions are designed to remain fluid and adaptable.

During application, the design integrates freehand intervention directly on the body, allowing the tentacles to respond to individual anatomy, muscle flow, joints, and movement. This adaptive process enables the protective form to expand organically across the body, rather than remaining confined to a fixed outline.

The tattoo is not applied as a rigid transfer, but recalibrated in situ, respecting the body as an active participant in the final composition.

Conceptual Function: Apotropaic guardian — adaptive protection

The project reinterprets the traditional threshold guardian by extending its function beyond architectural borders into depth, movement, and flow.

Placement: Variable — designed to adapt particularly well to the leg, arm, side of the body, or back, where the tentacular structure can follow anatomical lines and create a continuous field of protection.

Status: Open Project — Available for Realization

Tough...

make sure to be  
aligned front/back  
since knee sides are not  
symmetric

Front skin OR back of  
the calf complementary

Knee  
center

Frontal or  
3/4 placement  
of the face

Depending on the final size  
Tentacles on black or dot-work  
or Both

Tentacles perhaps  
extended to  
hip → ribs?

Kade '25



## “FOO-KRAKEN” — Curatorial Reading

This project merges two distant mythological systems through a shared function: protection.

The Foo Dog (Shishi) is traditionally placed at thresholds, guarding temples and passages through presence rather than aggression. Its expression is often playful, benevolent, almost childlike—signaling vigilance without violence. It protects life by standing watch.

The Kraken, originating in Northern maritime mythology, embodies the forces of the abyss: pressure, depth, and emergence. It is not inherently malevolent, but vast and indifferent—an expression of chaos before form.

In this fusion, the Foo Dog does not simply guard the door.

It extends its protection into the depths.

The tentacles do not signify destruction, but expansion. They function as extensions of vigilance—adaptive, flowing, responsive—allowing protection to operate not only at the visible threshold, but far below it. The guardian no longer waits; it rises.

Despite its hybrid form, the figure retains a benevolent nature. The face remains joyful, almost infantile, recalling the traditional Foo Dog’s role as a protector of continuity and life. Chaos is not defeated, but integrated.

In the context of tattooing, the flowing tentacular form adapts naturally to the body, wrapping around anatomy as a moving field of protection. The body becomes both threshold and depth, surface and abyss.