



benebell wen

artist & illustrator

THE PRIMUM COLLECTION (2020)

# 11A & # 11B

**Borderless version:** 8.5" x 11"  
(216 mm x 279 mm)

**Border version:** 8" x 10" illustration  
on 8.5" x 11" white paper

Pen & Ink + Digital Paint  
Archival Ink Print on Velvet Fine Art Paper  
260 gsm, Textured Matte

## Summoning the Kitsune

The nine-tailed fox spirit appears across many Asian folk traditions. In Japanese Shinto, the *kitsune* is a fox spirit who is a messenger for Inari, a *kami* or nature spirit that personifies prosperity, business and industry success, and metallurgy. In Korean folklore, the nine-tailed fox is a powerful shape-shifting spirit called *gumiho*. In Chinese Taoism, the fox spirit is the *hulijing* and is associated with witchcraft. The nine-tailed fox is Huxian Niangniang, or the Immortal Fox Lady, a goddess with attributes and traits similar to Inari.

She is often described as having a trickster, flirtatious personality. She doesn't give straight answers, she likes to watch you squirm, but ultimately, she has a loving, fiercely loyal nature, particularly loyal to witches and occultists. The nine-tailed fox spirit possesses formidable shape-shifting powers, and will often appear to you in different forms, just because she likes to keep you on your toes.

In traditional Asian witchcraft, the close bond between a witch and the nine-tailed fox spirit is what gives witches their powers. Hereditary witches are those born with a psychic connection to the fox spirit. Place this art print near a window or door, and frequently leave offerings for the *kitsune*. That will forge and strengthen your bond as a witch to the *kitsune*. The etiquette of placing a fox spirit altar either near a window or door, or altogether outside, is so the fox spirit can always come and go swiftly, as she pleases.

You can petition a *kitsune* for favors related to financial gains, business or career success, or to improve your witchcraft. Start by dedicating space near a window or door for an altar to the *kitsune*. Hang this art print on the wall behind the altar table or propped on the table itself. Leave offerings favored by the kitsune, such as sweet dried or candied fruits, fried tofu and sweet rice, colorful eye-catching candies, a shotglass filled with fermented rice wine, or sweet fruit wines and liquors. She also likes shiny metal charms.

On a decorative, luxurious-quality sheet of paper, write out your request. Place it in an envelope or fold it with care and place it on the altar surrounded on all sides with offerings to the *kitsune*. Before you go to sleep, burn incense and as the incense burns, whisper your call out to the fox spirit and send the call upward with the incense smoke. After the incense has burned to its end, head to bed, but leave out the offerings. The fox spirit will visit while you sleep and read your petition. If she has enjoyed your offerings and the words of your petition have moved her, she will honor your request and your wish shall be granted. For those who have never worked with the fox spirit before, it may take several tries and a show of persistence before you will appeal to the *kitsune*. Rest assured your tenacity will move her and she will eventually come.

#11A features the *kitsune* at sunrise. #11B features the *kitsune* at midnight.