CALL FOR ARTISTS

Paid Book Cover Commission —The Adventurer's Guide to New Delphi and Stranger Worlds

Science Fiction / Fantasy Anthology | Cover Art & Design

We are seeking a creative, imaginative and versatile artist to design the cover for an upcoming science fiction / fantasy anthology featuring multiple authors exploring a shared universe.

This is a paid commission, and we invite interested artists to submit their portfolios/website information along with written concept and, optionally, existing sketches or a mood board. Absolutely no AI generated works will be considered. Digital art is otherwise welcome. Priority will be given to artists in the Greater Victoria Area

About the Book

Welcome to New Delphi, city of magic and nexus of worlds. Every portal in the multiverse leads here , entangling tales and heroes. Will you just be staying a little while to behold its splendid chaos, moving on to other places and higher states of being, or staying to fight the good fight? Your choice means everything.

Join other denizens of New Delphi; a distraught sentient mushroom, a telepathic panther, a fugitive protester, an ordinary chicken farmer, a lyrical librarian, a shapeshifting-fairy, a recursive artists lost in art, a broken brain parasite, an annoying dinosaur, and more. Find connection, unravel mysteries, and prevent catastrophes. Whatever happens, hold tight to this guide. It will not only help you find your way—it may save your life!

An anthology of short stories and poems by:

New Delphi is a short story anthology set in a strange, vibrant city where worlds collide, portals appear and disappear without warning, and an extraordinary assortment of beings, technologies, and cultures coexist, sometimes peacefully, sometimes not.

The stories blend adventure, humour, mystery, and danger, exploring the unusual inhabitants and unpredictable possibilities of this interdimensional crossroads. A pre-proof version of the anthology is available for better familiarity.

Our Vision for the Cover

We are looking for artwork that captures the wonder, eccentricity, and underlying danger of New Delphi. To aid, we have included concept art the anthology team thought appropriate.

The ideal cover should:

- Clearly communicate the science fiction genre.
- Reflect the anthology's unusual, imaginative, and sometimes lighthearted tone.
- Convey a sense of the city's character and the diverse personalities inhabiting it.

- Balance visual richness with a strong, uncluttered composition.
- Incorporate or accommodate the book's title effectively.
- Work as a full wraparound cover, including front, spine, and back.

We welcome different artistic styles and interpretations. We are particularly interested in artists who can create an engaging, distinctive image that sparks curiosity and invites readers to explore this extraordinary world.

Visual Inspiration: The World of New Delphi

The following details are provided as creative inspiration, not a checklist. We do not expect all these elements to appear on the cover. Artists are encouraged to select, reinterpret, or combine those that best support a compelling design. The pre-proof manuscript is also available, as the text could provide additional inspiration.

The City and Its Architecture

New Delphi is an eclectic meeting place of worlds, blending ancient Greek influences, futuristic technologies, and fantastical architecture. At its centre stands a mysterious ruin. The central ruin itself is enigmatic: it may look different to different observers—a stone obelisk, a crumbling skyscraper, a fractured crystal tower, or even the stump of an ancient tree.

Portals and Other Worlds

Circular portals glow with strange light, opening onto distant landscapes and unfamiliar dimensions. Otherworldly sunlight may spill through a portal, or ghostly glimpses of entirely different worlds may be visible beyond its threshold.

Some interdimensional spaces are surreal, foggy, and bathed in blue light.

Atmosphere and Mood

The city can be vibrant and celebratory, with bustling streets, colourful festivals, and extraordinary inhabitants. Yet danger is never far away. Storm clouds and unnatural colours might gather over the skyline, suggesting that something ominous approaches.

We envision a balance of whimsy and peril rather than a relentlessly dark or dystopian atmosphere.

Characters and Curious Details

Among the possibilities:

- Purple-robed wizards, and a mysterious, authoritative Oracle (similar to Oracle of Delphi).
- A hulking reptilian creature peering through a portal.
- Futuristic vehicles arriving alongside older forms of transportation.
- A farmer working beneath the hood of a truck.
- A small, battered pink-and-white bunny-shaped robot whose eyes are just beginning to glow.

- A rooster and/or velociraptor
- Strange creatures, including enormous salamander-like beings.

These are just a few examples of the unusual details that give New Delphi its distinctive personality.

Above all, we want a cover that feels unmistakably science fiction while promising readers something unexpected, adventurous, and fun.

Scope of the Commission

The selected artist will be commissioned to produce:

- Final front-cover artwork and design.
- A coordinated spine and back-cover design.
- Print-ready files suitable for the final book dimensions and page count.
- Digital cover artwork suitable for ebook editions and promotional use.

Final technical specifications, including trim size, spine width, and print requirements, will be confirmed with the selected artist. We anticipate only a few revisions to be included.

We are looking for a cover produced by human artistry only; No AI please.

How to Apply

Interested artists are invited to submit:

1. Portfolio: Examples of previous work, particularly book covers, science fiction, fantasy, or imaginative character and environment art.
2. Creative concept: A brief description of your proposed artistic direction for New Delphi. Preliminary sketches or mood boards are welcome but not required.
3. Availability: Your anticipated timeline for completing the commission.

Compensation: Paid commission, with the final fee and terms agreed upon before work begins.

Est Budget: $500

Submission deadline: November 30th 2026

Anticipated completion date: Jan 30th 2027

Submit to: deborahlambert42@gmail.com

Please include “New Delphi Cover Artist Submission” in your subject line.

We look forward to seeing how artists envision the splendid chaos of New Delphi!