

# Rick Chrustowski

author and illustrator



Seven fuzzy chicks took over my studio while I made the art for  
Barb Joosse's book, *Higgledy-Piggledy Chicks*.

They snoozed in the warm glow of my desk lamp,  
and pecked at my colored pencils.

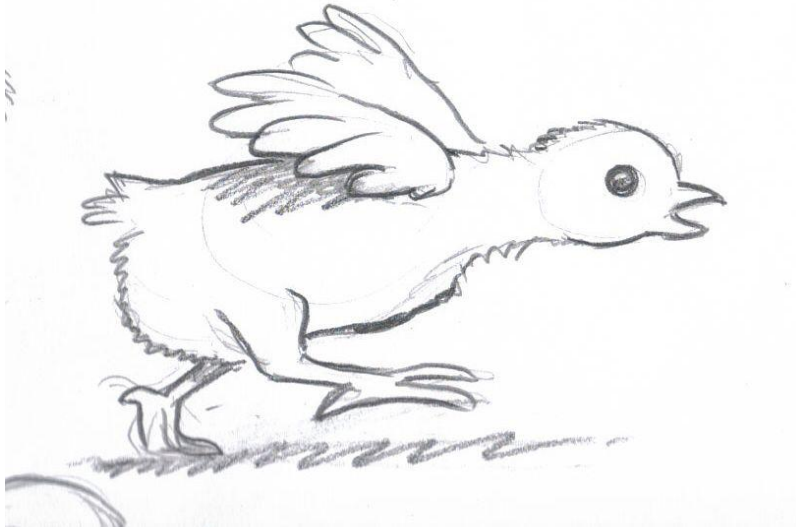
Now I wonder what I would do without them.  
They make me laugh. They give me eggs to eat.  
They inspire my illustrations.

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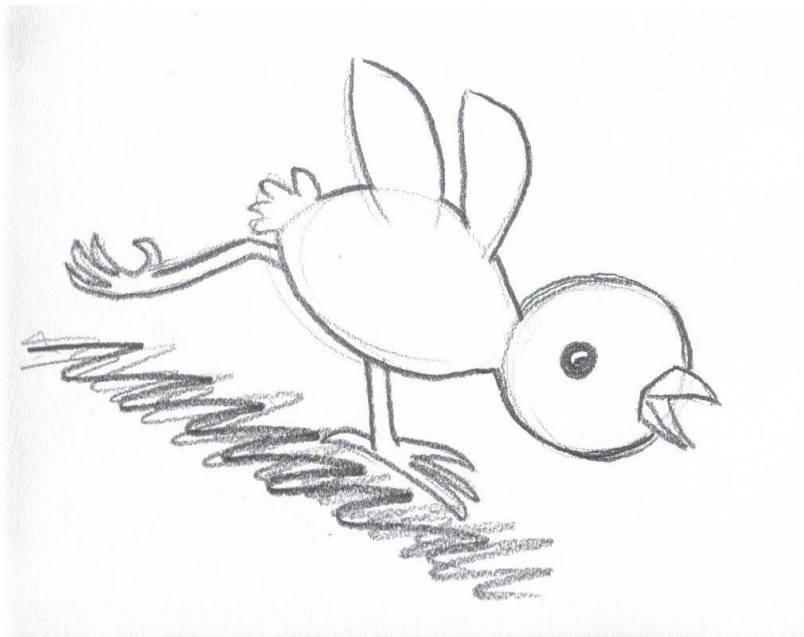
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Here's how I make a collage like the ones in the book.

First, I make a sketch. This chick's name is Honey.



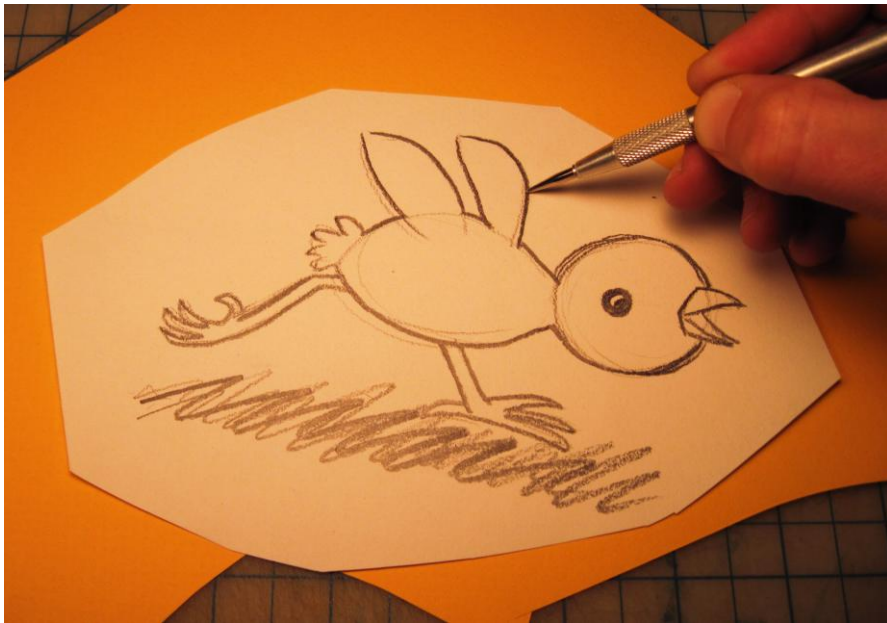
Then I simplify the sketch into circles and ovals,



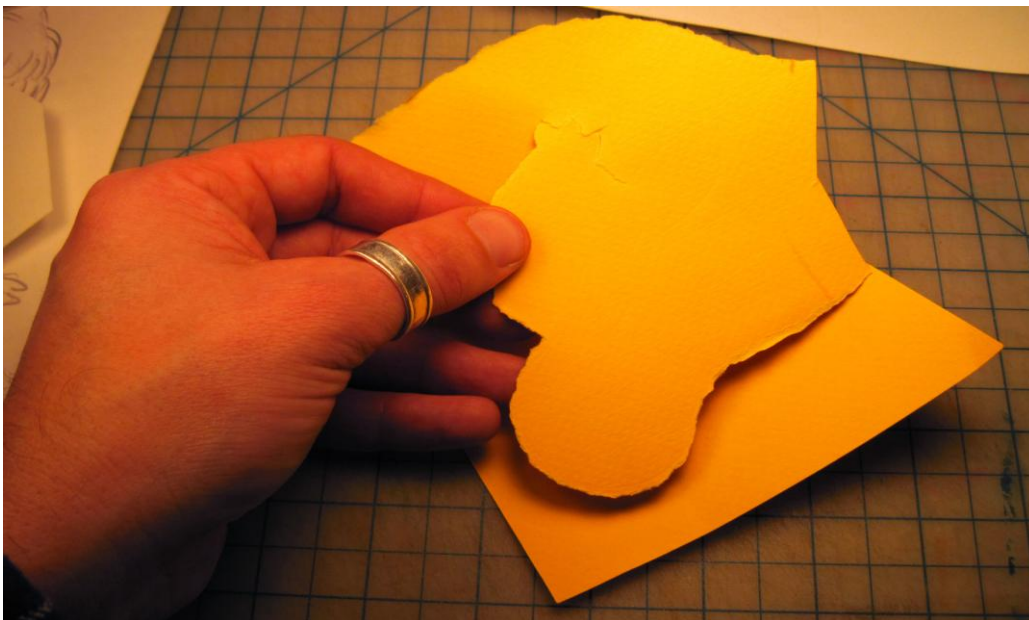
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trace it onto a piece of yellow paper with a stylus,



tear the body shape out so it's fuzzy,

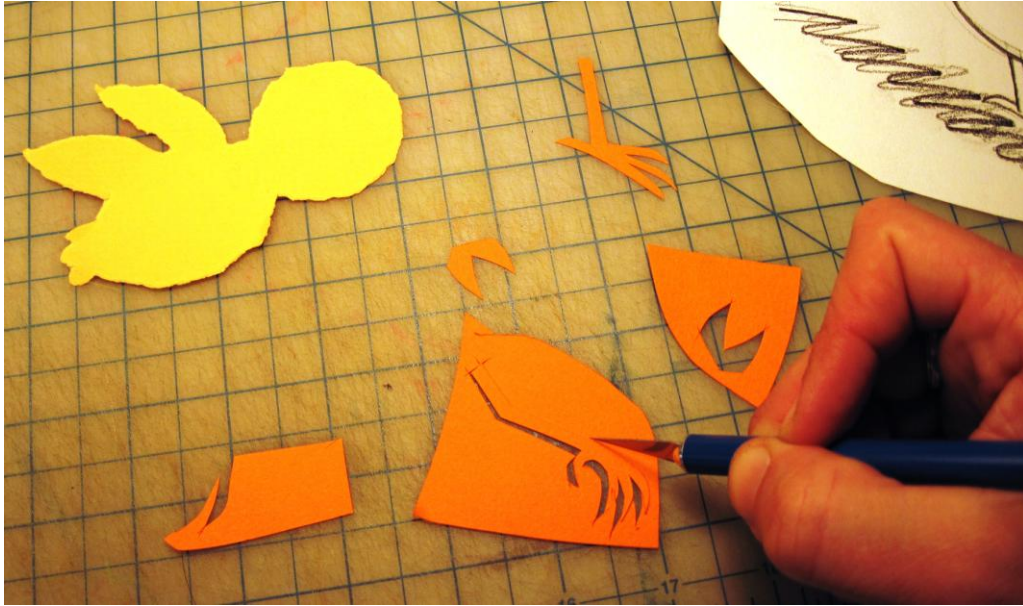




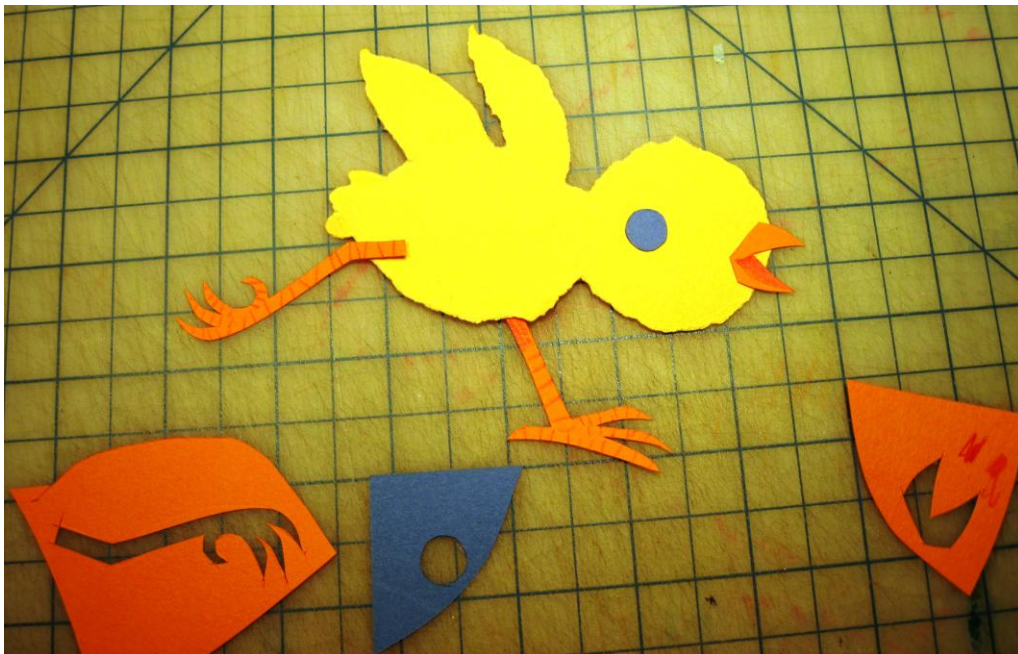
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cut the legs and beak with an Xacto blade,



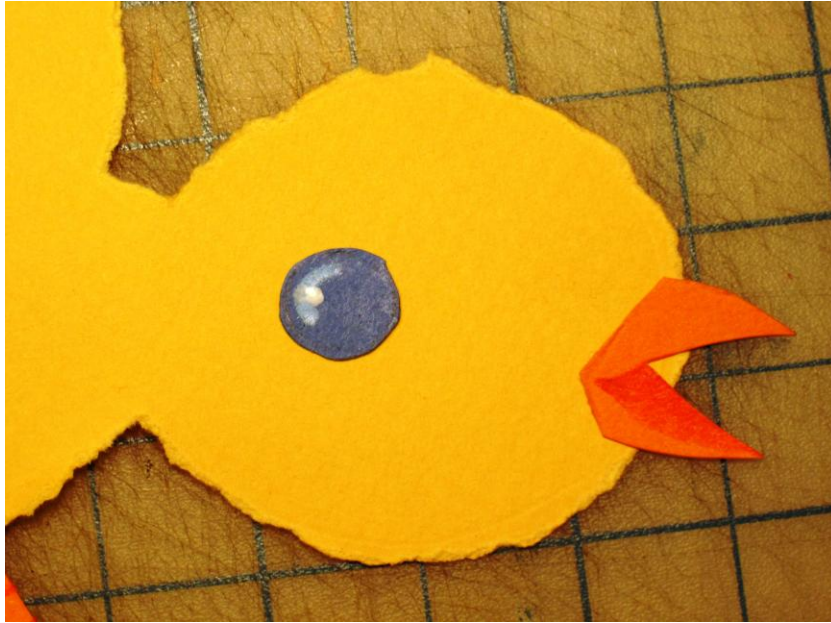
and glue the pieces together. A round blue eye reflects the summer sky.



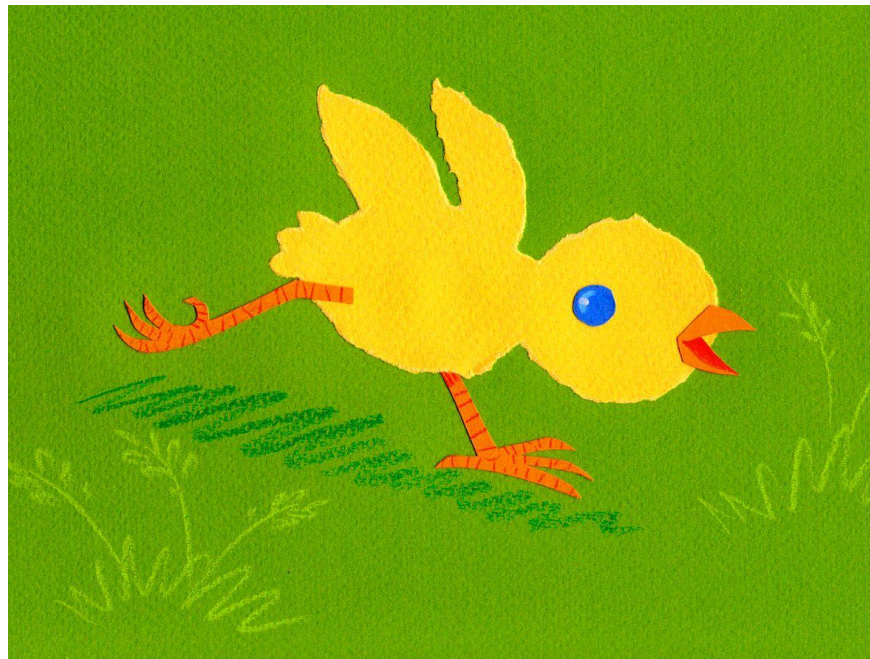
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Colored pencils are great to use for details.  
A spot of white paint reflects the sun and brings the chick to life.



I give her a patch of grass to run on,  
glue her down and the collage is finished.





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Here is Honey today, all grown up. That's me on the left.



By the way, it was easier to clean my studio after raising seven chicks, than it was after making the art for this book!

