

[Link for website](#)

Week One:

Determined that I wanted to explore utilizing WordPress and building off a template rather than hardcoding the site from scratch, as I've already done that and wanted to try something new.

For content, I'm going to make it a sort of portfolio/blog site for things that I make, allowing me to take pictures of projects and add information about the making progress, what I learned, and any online resources I used.

As for actual steps beyond that, I took the domain "carliemade.wordpress.com" to use, but that's about it.

Week Two

1/25/24 5:35PM - Decided to use Alto Focus as a theme to build off of. With nothing else customized yet, it looks like this:



1/25/24 6:15PM - While thinking about colors, I decided I wanted something fun. I think it can be easy to get caught in going super minimalist for gallery type pages and didn't want to fall into that trap. I'm leaning towards a muted rainbow sort of color scheme to try and keep it feeling lively but not overwhelming. [I found this one I quite like and am using that as inspiration.](#)

1/29/24 10:30AM- Added in a few posts to start getting a feel of how they will look on the page.

2/1/24 6:02 PM - Really feeling the learning curve of working with a content management system rather than hard coding everything and building from the ground

up. Currently, this is what I have.

Carlie Made



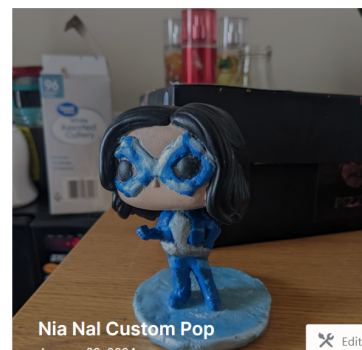
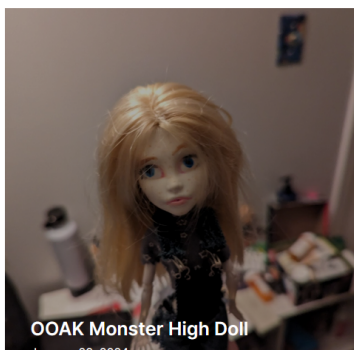
I don't like the amount of empty space and padding, and wanted to work more with color. I considered trying to change themes, but I can't find something that's working how I want it to in ways I can customize. Currently considering playing with more of the "Design Your Own" feature instead because I'm not happy with this and feel stuck.

2/1/24 6:28- Decided to go with the "design your own" at the expense of not being able to use any color. I might go in and get the plan that allows me to do that just so I can make it look how I wanted overall but I'm not sure.



Carlie Made

Search...



 Edit Site ...

This is fine, it's just not really what I was picturing for the site. I think for now I'm just going to think on it.

Week 3:

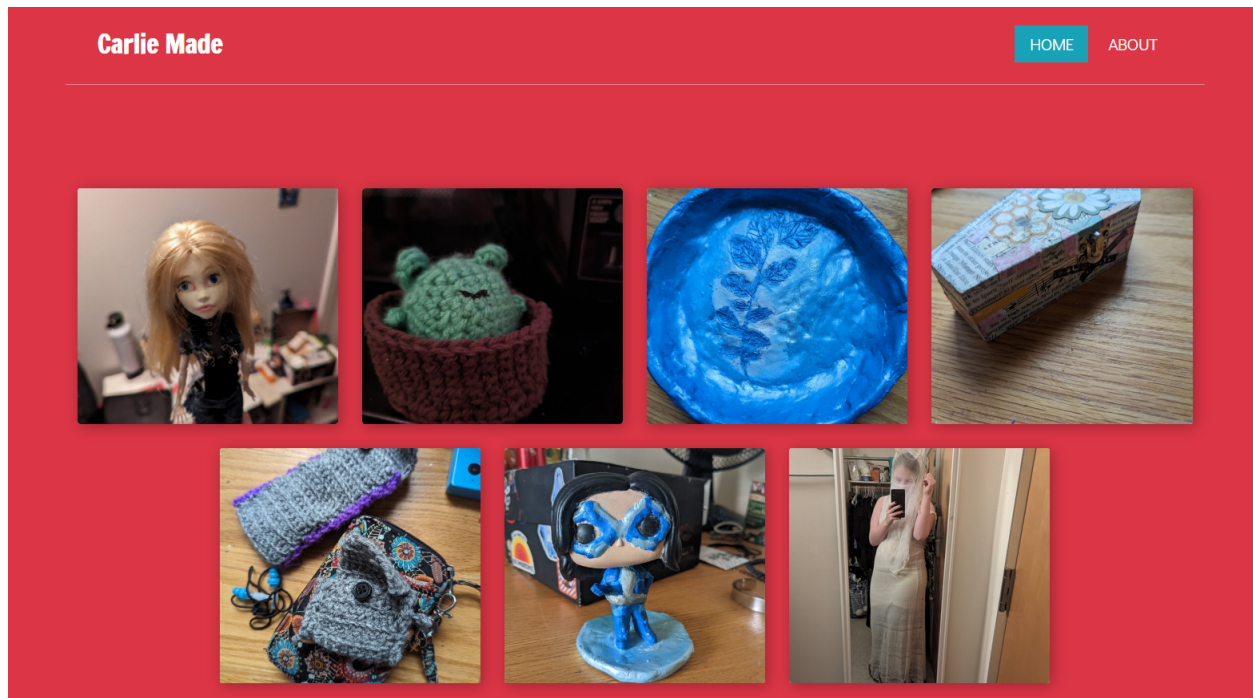
2/8/24 5:39 PM: Now planning on switching to wordpress.org

2/8/24 11:08 AM: Set up domain and hosting through ICDSOft.

2/12/24 11:59 AM: Started exploring templates and style options. I'm definitely more optimistic about the amount of options with this. I am, however, still trying to figure out posting content and how to get that set up.

Week 4:

2/15/24 5:19 PM: Have put in some colors and started experimenting with the photo gallery option.



I also went in and drastically reduced the footer to be more minimalistic by deleting most of the HTML in that section. I ended up just leaving this:

```
<div class="keditFooterLine1 no-container">
```

```
<div class="keditFooterLine2 keditFooterLineDarker">
```

```
  <div class="text-center no-container">
```

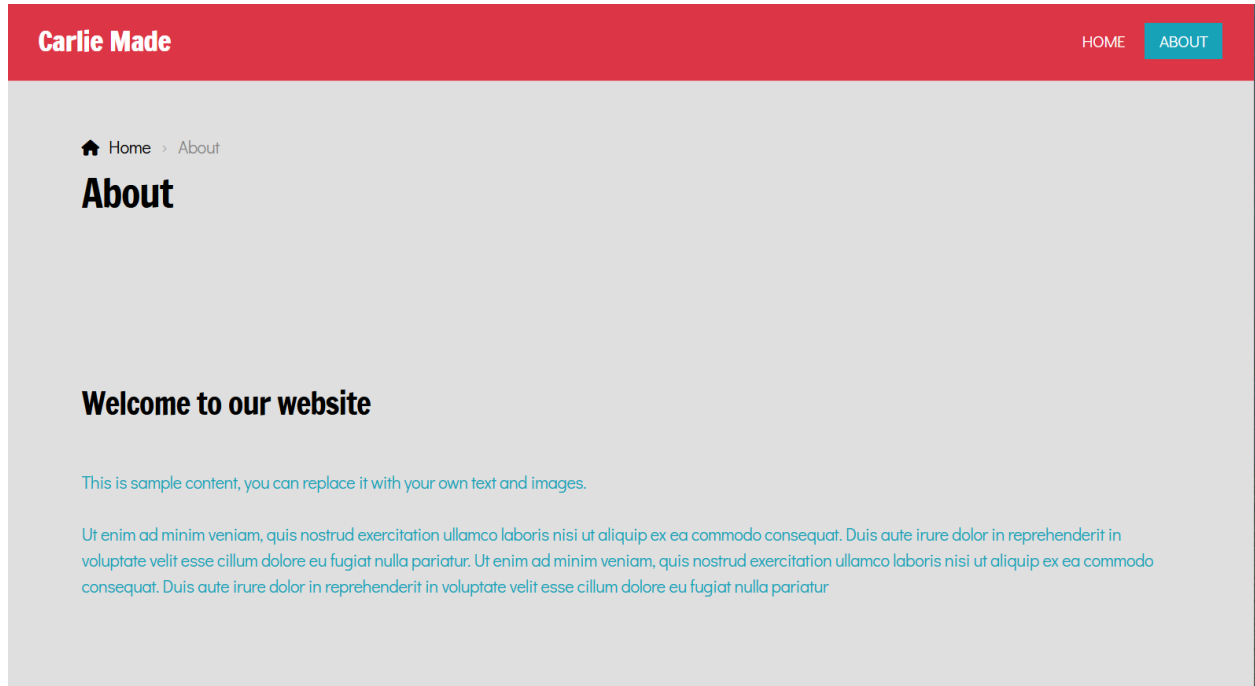
```
    <div class="kedit" id="kpg_2240933"><div class="keditable  
keditFooterCopyright">Copyright ©2024 Carlie Made, All rights reserved.</div></div>
```

```
    <div class="pt-0 kedit keditFooterApp" id="kpg_8992634"  
style="">{%footer%}</div>
```

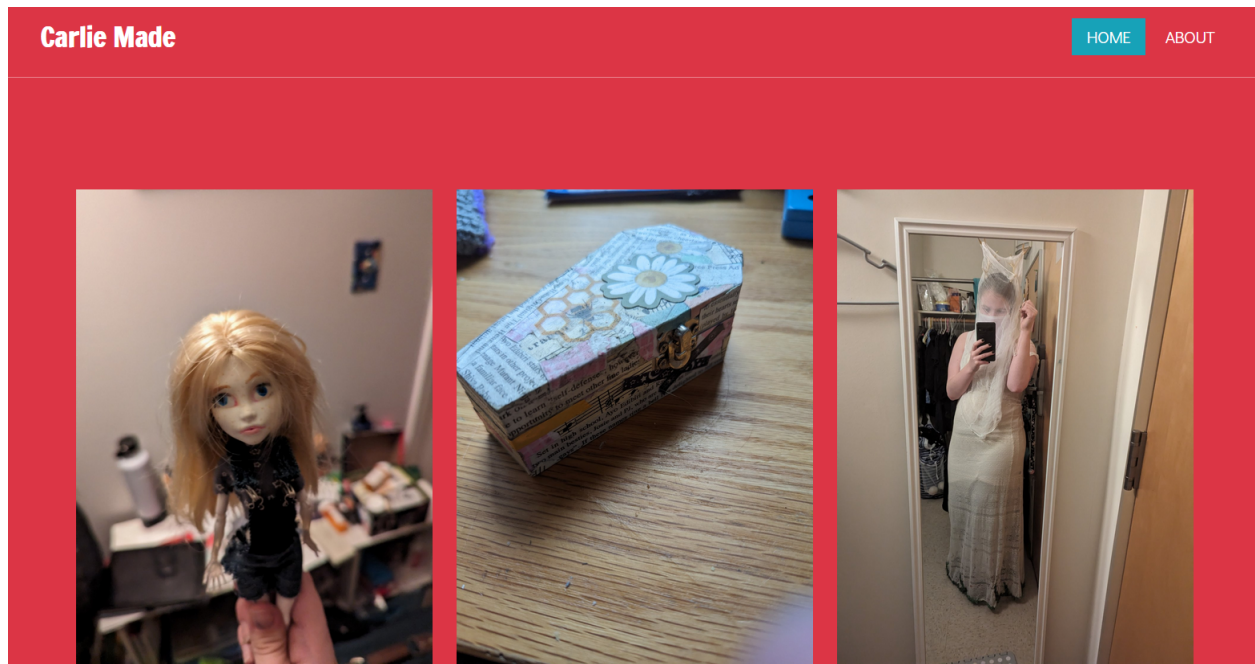
```
  </div>
```

</div></div>

2/15/24 5:38PM: Started messing with the about page and the colors/appearance of that. Currently it still has only sample content and looks like this, although I am still planning on changing text colors:



2/20/24 11:30AM: Changed how images displayed and got a certificate.



Week 5:

- My site is supposed to serve as a portfolio for different crafting projects. I knew I wanted a way to display pictures and to provide a small description. I wanted something to seem colorful.
- I've built sites completely out of HTML and CSS but hadn't used a content management system before. As such, I decided to use Wordpress to experiment with a management system. It does skip the need to code every detail in, but some of the interfaces can be temperamental. It has made it easy to put everything together.
- I want to use the next classes to add in and display descriptions, touch up the aesthetic details.
- I did accidentally start on WordPress.com rather than WordPress.org, resulting in me needing to completely restart.
- Working with WordPress.org has been a very big learning experience.

2/22/24 5:33PM: Started changing colors to balance both my original idea of having it be more colorful vs. making it visually pleasing

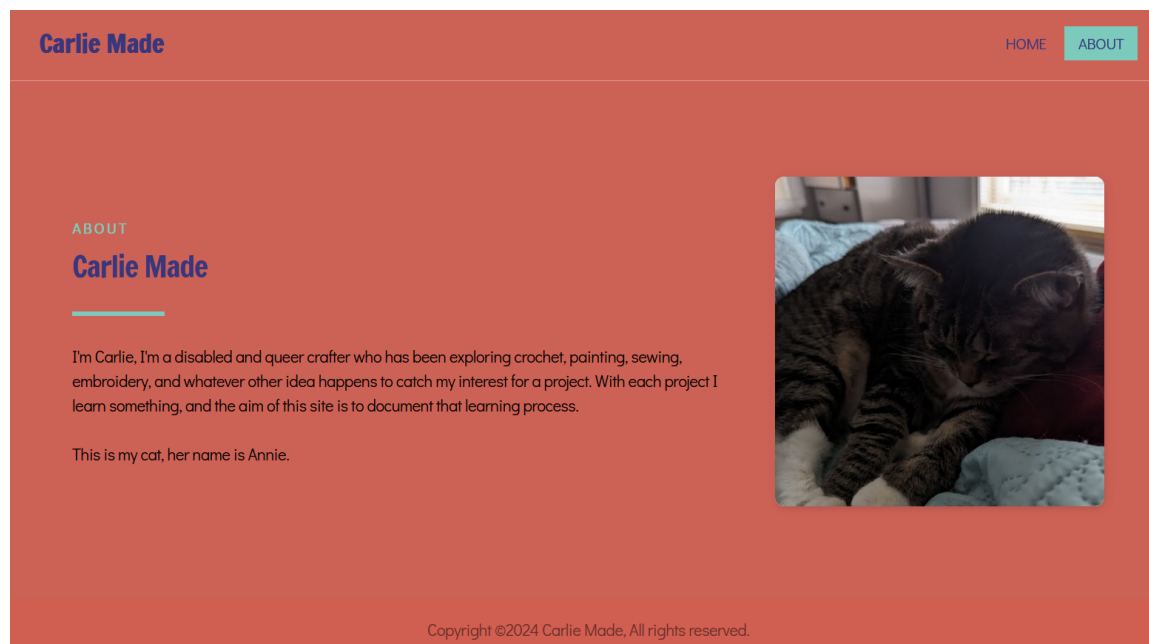
5:53: Started focus on about page

Week 6:

2/29/24 5:04PM: I am trying to decide how to add descriptions with each picture and as such, am looking into plugins

2/29/24 5:43PM: Adjusted title and menu colors and started on the actual content of the about page. I debated how I wanted to phrase it and decided to go first person language solely because I have generally been going for a more personal "cozy" look. Mostly I'm trying to lean into more of a "TikTok crafter" style than like a super minimalist, more "High Art" or "Professional" appearance. I think the use of first person adds to that.

2/29/24 6:02PM: I wanted to put some sort of photo on the About page, but realized I do not have any current pictures of myself, so at least for the time being, I put a picture of my cat. So far the About page looks like this:



3/5/24 10:30AM: Spent about 30 minutes looking at plugins and found two I'm deciding between. Need to figure out how to actually install the plugins and I also want to retake some pictures

3/5/24 2:52 PM: Was trying to install the plug in and apparently completely destroyed my site in the process. Everything I had done is gone now

3/5/24 3:23PM: Have readded most of the style back into the website. I did leave off the actual content for the moment as I am going to replace them all anyway. Added the plugin [Advance Portfolio Grid](#), as I liked the ability to have multiple photos for a project and the longer descriptions.

Week 7

3/7/24: 6:17PM: Nuked the site on purpose this time, I think the build itself was causing problems. It wasn't letting me make posts, and now it is so I was right. Now I just need to completely rework my plan for this. Installed a new theme and the plugins again

3/18/24 10:59AM: Spent some time away from the site out of frustration. Changing colors and fonts to better match my original idea. The site editor is incredibly slow and touchy

3/18/24 11:53AM: Attempting to make posts and use plugins. Might give up on it though as I can't figure it out

Week 8

3/28/24 6:06PM: Found a new limitation: the gallery's feature image will stretch if the post is longer than the image. It's not a big deal, I can just work around it when selecting the featured image, but I might look more into the plugin and see if someone else has done a more proper workaround.

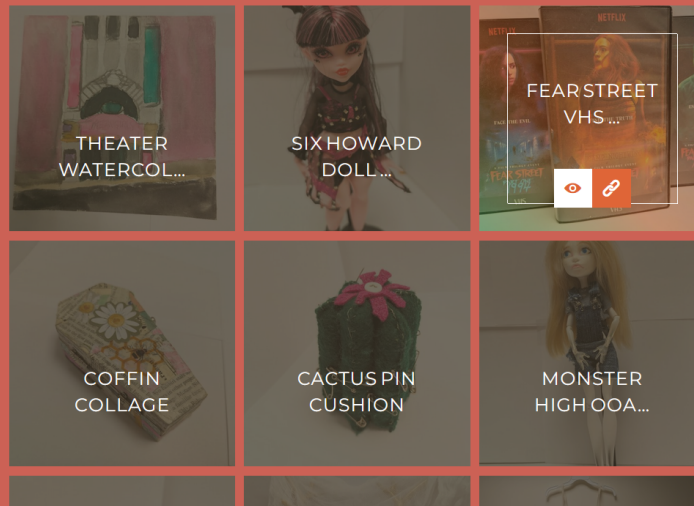
Week 10

4/11/24 4:55PM: I have finished putting all the content onto my website. At this point in the semester, I'm not sure if there's any larger things I could do with the website, so it will likely just be continuing to tweak small details and maybe add an About page. Regardless, at this point, I have done at least what I originally intended to do, which after having to restart about three times, is pretty good. Learning WordPress has definitely been a learning curve for me.

Week 11:

4/18/24 5:20: Finished adjusting colors and borders to try and give a more polished look. Opted not to have an About page on account of it affecting how the homepage looks and I decided I liked that more. The final result is:

CARLIE MADE



CARLIE MADE



Final Review:

1. Although it might not look like it, I definitely feel like I challenged myself. I had absolutely no experience with WordPress before that, and it shows by how many challenges I hit. I went into this not even knowing WordPress.com and WordPress.org were two different things, resulting in having to restart. Then while attempting to install plugins, it seemed like I hadn't properly installed WordPress, resulting in everything getting removed and having to replace it. After doing that, I'm pretty sure there was an issue with my theme itself, as it would not let me make any sort of post, resulting in me once again having to start from scratch. Additionally, I struggled with feeling like I had less control over the appearance of the site, for example, I really don't like the border around the site, but I

couldn't find a way to get rid of it completely. Ultimately I ended up working around it to at least make the border seem slightly less out of place.

2. I think the site looks nice overall. There is a part of me that felt like the site wasn't "complicated" enough overall, especially when hearing the projects classmates were working on, but I still feel like I gained skills from it, and the end result looks good. The gallery ended up looking super good, and I feel like the energy I was trying to go for with a more colorful theme to give a more kitsch-y appearance worked pretty well.