BASIC MANGA DRAWING TIPS

Manga (pronounced “mon-gah”) is a Japanese word that translates into “comics.” Here are some tips to help you started in drawing your first manga!

1. Think of a Story

Manga stories range from everyday things such as going to school, playing soccer, falling in love to fighting ghosts and travelling through time. It’s always good to write about what you know best, but in general pick a subject that you enjoy. Jot down your ideas on a piece of paper, or type it out on a computer.

2. Design Your Characters

Is your main character a girl? Is she a martial artist? Does she have a best friend? Work out the design of your manga character on paper. You’ll want to refer to these character designs as you draw your manga, to maintain consistency.

3. Thumbnail and Design Your Manga Page

Now it’s time work out the flow of your panels, with small drawings called thumbnails. Use scrap paper and play around with what kind of panels you want to use. Think like a movie director; play around with different camera angles. Consider using an establishing shot to set the scene for your story.

4. Rule Out Your Panels

Ready to start ruling out your manga borders? Get your Seth Cole Manga Paper, a ruler, and a triangle and start marking your panels! Follow what you established in your thumbnails.

5. Sketch in Your Manga

Once your panels are ruled out, you can start sketching in your manga scenes. Many Manga Professionals recommend a 0.5mm - 0.7mm mechanical pencil with HB lead. Don’t forget to leave room for speech bubbles if you have dialogue.

6. Ink and Finish Your Manga

Ink over your lines with archival ink. Sakura Pigma® Micron™ pens work very well. Try a Pigma Brush Pen for line variation. To ink your borders, make sure your ruler has a raised inking edge to prevent bleed. Add colors or screentone if you like.

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