

Manga School



sweatdrop
MANGA STUDIOS
www.sweatdrop.com

Sweatdrop Studios' tips and tricks on creating your own manga-style art

Calling all budding manga artists out there! Take a seat - the class is starting. Each issue in *NED* magazine, different artists from Sweatdrop Studios will be taking you through the stages of creating a piece of artwork, from pencil sketches, through marker pencils, to full pages of manga! Each will be allowing not only hints and tips on creating your own artwork, but also an insight into their own methods and techniques. With *NED*'s competition just over and closing books on the way, we present an article sharing the combined wisdom of the group, with top tips from our artists. Pencil at the ready! Class in progress...

Where do you get your ideas from?

Inspiration hits everywhere, a new idea, a snatch of conversation heard in the street, a joke between friends. Sometimes ideas can literally pop out of the air and plant themselves firmly in your brain without so much as a by your leave. No-one can tell you how to get an idea, it's what we do with that idea which is important, and that's what we will begin with.



what?

where?



when?

who? why?

What, where, when, who...

Your idea has entered in your brain, waving a little flag and demanding attention. What happens next? This will surely find a completed concept waving that flag, so you'll need to take some time mulling your idea into the story you want it to be. Ask questions of it, who is this person? Where do they live? What is happening around them? The more questions you ask about your idea the more you will know about it and the more real it will become to you and your audience.

...and why?

The question 'why' is a little harder and is dependent on the type of story you want to tell. Think of a straight horizontal line. At the left of the line write 'start' and at the other end write 'finish'. Think out what happens along this side your idea will fit. The further towards the right of the scale, the more you need to be asking why? Why are your characters there? Why is there a war being waged? Why must the prophecy be fulfilled? Why have these friends fallen out? For every answer you get you can ask another question. Bit by bit you will find yourself completely immersed in your own story. It's these details that will enable your audience to believe in your idea. You don't necessarily want to explore all of your answers, but you need to know what they are. If you don't completely understand your story, then how will your audience? If you get to a point where you can't answer the question why, then you need to look at the rest of the story to find the answer. It may be there somewhere.



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