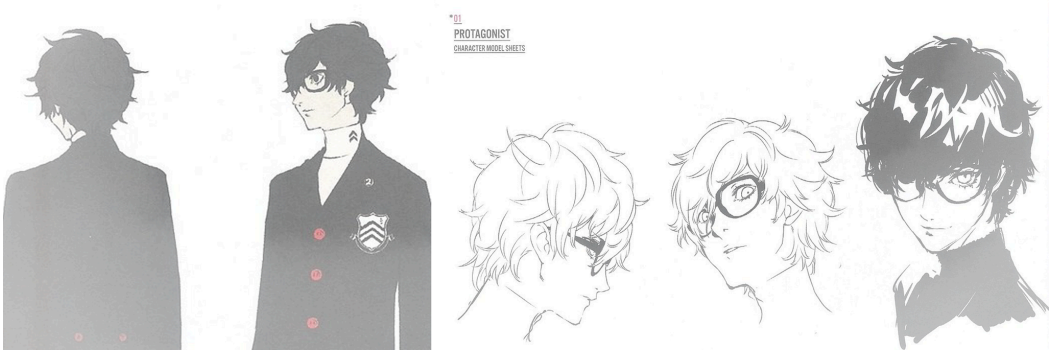
CHARACTER DESIGN ZINE



Welcome to the:

✧Character Design Zine!✧

If you're reading this, then the chances are that you not only love admiring a good character design, but you enjoy creating characters too! A good character design locks the viewer into the fictional world, and details of the character can be found throughout its design! Additionally, a good reference sheet can help 3D modelers and animators bring this design to life from all angles of movement. This is where we come in!



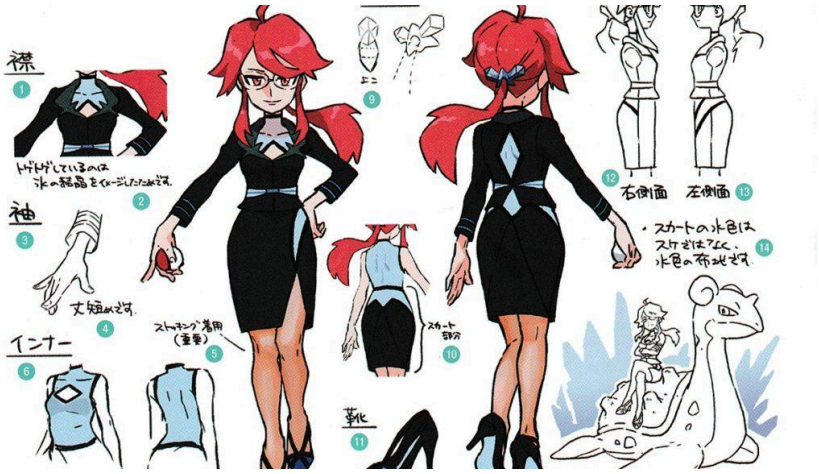
In this zine, we will each be creating a reference sheet for a character! You can find many examples of a character reference sheet online, as these sheets are essential to the creative process!

By the end of the zine, you will have made a reference for a character! We are looking for:

- 25 character designers

RULES:

1. **Original characters are fine, preferred, and encouraged**!
2. **You must not have created this reference before,** otherwise it can't be submitted to the zine. If you have made a reference sheet for this character before, time to make a new one! You have to start from the ground up!
3. **There are exceptions for designing preexisting characters.** For example, if you want to make a reference for Noctis from FFXV, you may only use his face and body. His outfit must be completely reworked and redesigned by you! The reason is because preexisting characters from professionals already have existing references and sometimes 3D models, thus eliminating the challenge of thinking of our designs in 3 dimensions.
4. **Fan characters are also acceptable**, so long as you have designed them 100% yourself!
5. **You must include the character's name on the reference.** This is the only text that is required to have on your reference, and any additional text, including blurbs about design choices, small biographies, and so on, is up to you!
6. **The reference must include the character's full body.**



7. **Your reference MUST include at least the front and back of your character**! You may adjust these angles to be ¾ front or back, and you may use additional angles (side profile, for example) if you wish!
8. **Go nuts with what else to include on your reference**! This can be weapon designs, clothing breakdowns, talksprites, movement studies, expressions, and so on! It's your design, show us what you want to be seen!
9. **Reference must be in full color and digital**, although full renders vs flat only may come down to how you feel would look better for your reference. A mix of both is acceptable!



10. **You may request multiple pages for your reference** (ie: one page is a full body turnaround, and the second is talksprites or alternate outfits). You may also take this route is you want to have a full render illustration to accompany your reference. The limit is two pages per applicant!





FAQ:

- **What is the application period of the zine and the working period?**
    - Applications: March 7 - March 28
    - Judging: March 28 - April 4
    - Email Distribution: April 5-12
    - Working Period: April 12- June 21
    - Production: June 29 - July 23
    - Up For Sale: July 31st!
    - Contributor Copy Distribution: August 1- August 30
    - **PLEASE NOTE** **Production periods, sale listings, and copy distribution may change depending on the printing manufacturer's production time for the zine.**
- **Is this zine for-profit or non-profit?**
    - Non-Profit! Either to aid the Australian Bush Fires or to the Trevor Project, although this can be discussed between the artists.
- **Does this zine have a theme?**
    - This version of the CDZ doesn't have a theme, no. It will be discussed if the inside of the zine itself will be sectioned by theme or not. However, if the CDZ continues into the future, then future collaborations may be themed!
- **Will there be standalone illustrations in the zine along with references?**
    - This is to be discussed! Making a refernce sheet can be a lot of work, from nailing a design down, to making it all look perfect on a page. The zine will not require artists to create full illustrations of their characters. However, artists may be asked if they would like to, and if enough decide they would like to create illustrations and can do so while completing their main sheets, then there may be a section in the zine for illustrations! It's too soon to tell for now.
- **Is this zine NSFW?**
    - No
- **Will contributors receive a personal copy? What about copies to sell at conventions?**
    - No matter how the zine sells, each contributor will be rewarded a copy! Additionally, so long as contributors are willing to pay a fee to cover production, convention copies will also be provided!
- **Where will the zine be sold?**
    - Gumroad!
- **Will there be any merch or additional items sold in a bundle with the zine?**
    - To be decided! It's understandably difficult to think of what kind of additional merch could accompany a zine like this, so it's leaning towards a "no."
- **Will you be sending both rejection and acceptance emails?**

    - Yes! You will be notified either way and will be sent an email during the email distribution period.
- **Does this zine have a place for writers?**
    - At this time, the 2020 Character Design Zine does not have a space for writers. Due to the nature of this zine, it was difficult to find a way to incorporate writers beyond an editing position. However, do not lose hope! If all goes well, this will not be the last you see of this zine, and if our team finds a way to incorporate writers in the future, we will happily have them onboard!
- **Do you have to list your legal name for the zine?**
    - Nope! You can use whatever name you prefer, or even your online handle if that's your preference.
- **Is it better to make a sheet for a character with a design, or to make a sheet for a character with no design yet?**
    - Up to you! There's merit for both. If your character already has a design down but there's some things you're not happy with about it, this is a good time to iron out those problems. If this character has never had a design put on paper before, this is a good chance get started as well!
- **Can there be elements of horror in a design?**
    - Sort of? The answer is yes, so long as it doesn't dip too far into the realm of things like mutilation, evisceration, gratuitous gore, or other extreme themes like that. Some horror is still okay!
- **If we have two sheets to work with for our reference, can we design two characters?**
    - Unfortunately, no. Each artist is meant to focus on one character's design at a time, so both sheets would have to showcase things about the character. Otherwise, only one sheet would be given!
- **Can we include side characters/familiars/companions in the reference?**
    - This is okay! So long as your sheet focuses on one character, you may include a small companion or creature along with them.
- **Do we maintain creative rights to our characters and designs?**
    - Of course! Even though you're submitting your character to the zine along with their design, you are still in full ownership of them and can still use them for your game, stories, DnD campaigns, or other projects! At the end of the day, your characters belong to you, not the zine.
- **Can I have a preexisting sketch of a character's reference sheet, and just finish it for the zine?**
    - It's preferred that you don't do this. The main idea is to start over and re approach your designs alongside the other artists of the zine.
- **Does the character need to have a story behind them?**
    - Nope! All we need is their name, any other details about them are up to the artist. You can even leave it at just their name if you like!
- **Can we have traditional ink but digital color?**

    - Yes? A tentative yes. If your lines are clean and your colors help pull the look together, this can be allowed! So long as it all looked nice, finished, and clean at the end!
- **Does the character have to be human-like? Can they be something like a centaur or anthropomorphic character?**
    - Yes! Anthros or other humanoid-adjacent creatures would be allowed.
- **Can I use my submission/design to sell work independently?**
    - You may! If there's merch you'd like to make of your character of if you want to include the reference you created in your future work, feel free!
- **Can we post our progress on social media?**
    - Unfortunately, no. We can to keep our production under wraps for as long as possible, but like most zines, you may post cropped previews of what you're working on, and can tag the CDZ on twitter so we can boost you too! After the production period is over and there's physical copies on the mod's lap, then artists are free to post their full submissions online!
- **What if I can't decide on a character to make a sheet for and don't have one picked yet when if I get accepted?!**
    - The struggle of character designers. Don't sweat it if you haven't chosen which character you're making a sheet for if you get in! There will be a general chat for our group, discussions, and general help in case you'd like to ask anyone their opinion or how you can narrow down your choice. We're all a team!

The goal of this zine is to think on a professional level of design, for those of us who wish to break into television, video games, or cinema. For those on that line of thinking, this zine will also be a fantastic way to add to our portfolios! Or, you can hop on this project for fun! We will be encouraging each other, giving and taking critique, and making our designs as good as they can be! I want to see what everyone has in store, so if this sounds like your jam, consider applying! Thank you for your interest, I look forward to working together!

- ✦Kinja✦

Have a Rad Day!