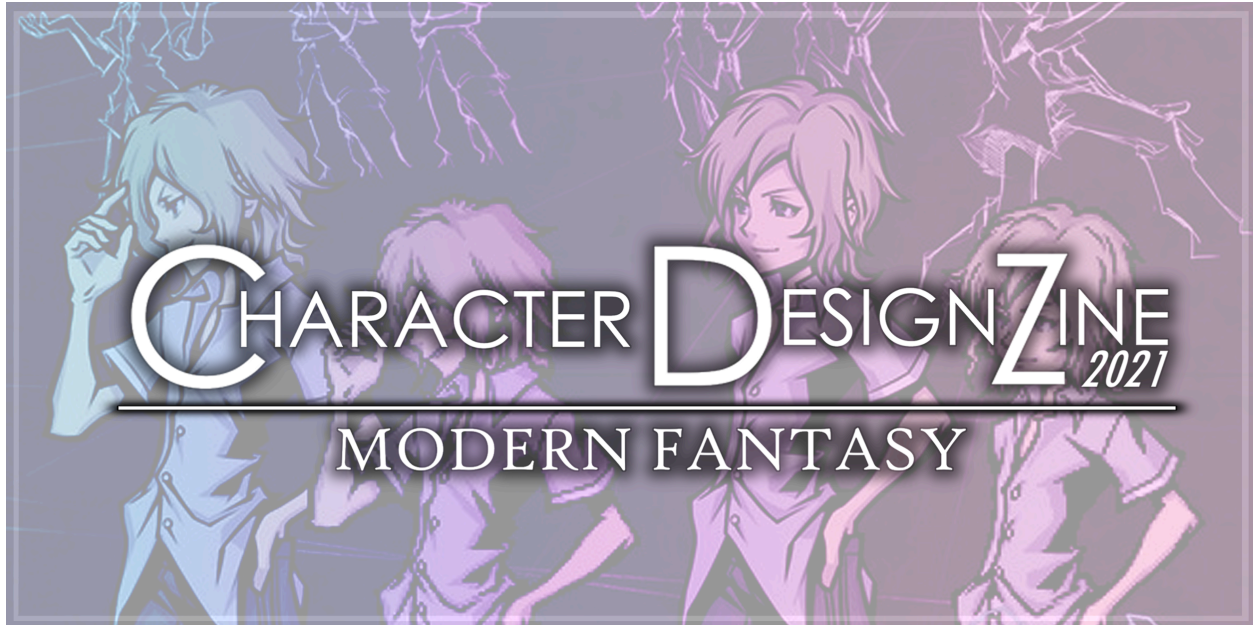




Character Design Zine X Modern Fantasy

-Information, Guidelines, and FAQ-

Introduction

If you're reading this, thank you for your interest in checking out the Character Design Zine! This zine celebrates the art of character design, and showcases various styles and characters! This is an OC zine, meaning we want your original characters for this one! The goal here (as explained further below) is to create a fully rendered reference sheet for your character, coinciding with our theme!



Theme: Modern Fantasy

This means we want to see both modern and fantasy elements blended together! Is your OC a medusa who owns a fashion line? A witch who has a switchblade collection? A vampire that works as a bartender? Whatever it may be, we'd love to see it! As stated, the zine doesn't follow any particular art style philosophy, and tries to take a wide range of creators! We want to see your full creative gears at work here to make something stellar!



design-centric!

The Zine

The zine will be looking for 35 artists this time around (Adding 10 more than our last zine)! There will be an opportunity to apply as a pinch hitter as well, meaning that if you're not initially accepted into being on the zine, you are open to filling in a role if someone has to drop out. Though we have received an interest to take writers for the zine, it felt best to leave the zine as purely character



The Previous Zine

The Character Design Zine 2020 was the first zine run here, with no particular theme, to test the waters of the zine and the interest it could gain. After a large wave of applications, a physical and digital release, and a successful donation to the Atlanta-Based [Solutions not Punishment Collaborative](#), the zine is back! The original zine hosted 25 character artists, and you can check them out [here](#), and can still purchase the digital 2020 zine [here](#) (the proceeds of which will go towards this zine)! The team was incredible, and I'm excited to do it all again!

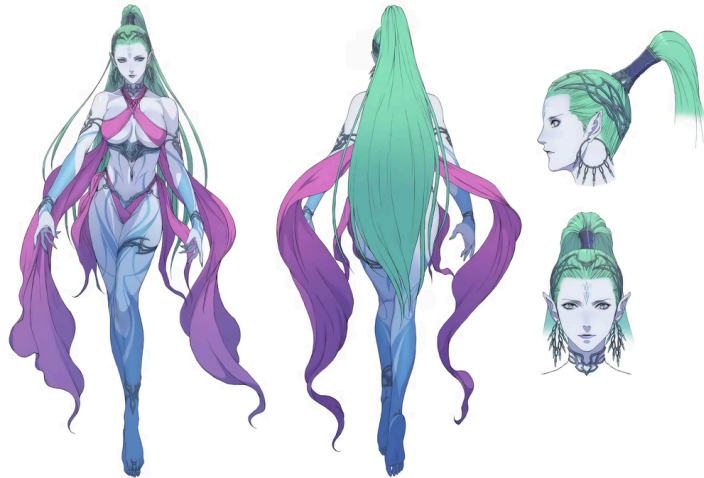


As for me, my name is Kinjal! I was the head (and only) moderator for the last zine, and ran everything from the schedule, forms, templates, graphic design, and finances! A lot of hats honestly! I've previously worked on a LOT of zines, including but not limited to the *Kingdom Hearts 15th Anniversary Zine*, *I'll See You Again: A Rokushi Zine*, *Premium Heart: A Tifa Lockheart Zine* *Windows to Worlds: An OC*

Art Zine, the current [Mystical Songstresses](#) zine, and many, many more! My personal twitter is [here](#) for anyone curious, and you can come talk to me about Final Fantasy IX and boba tea.

The Rules and Specifications

- ★ Original Designs only! We want to see your characters and designs!
- ★ No previous work! You cannot submit a reference that you've made before, and must create one from the ground up along with the other artists!
- ★ You must create a full-body reference!

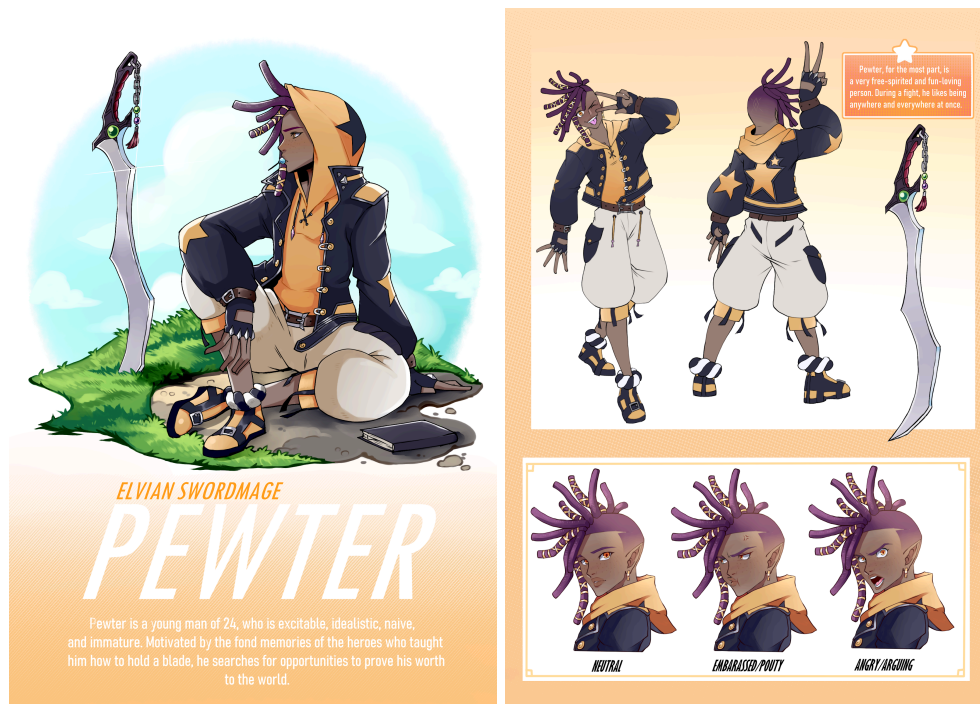


- ★ You must include a front and back view of your design! This can be an alternate $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ view, but either way we need to see all sides of your reference. After this, you may add any additional views of the character as you like!
- ★ The reference must be in full, digital color! At this time we will not be accepting traditional works, and will only be accepting digital submissions.



- ★ You must include the character's name! This is the only text required for your reference sheet, and can be added anywhere you like on your reference!
- ★ Go nuts! After following these rules, you may add anything you like to your reference, such as clothing breakdowns, expressions, poses, pets/familiars, and more! We want to see your creativity on full display here!
- ★ You may request 2 pages! Each contributor will be required to submit one page for their reference, however, you can request one more! This can be used however you like so long as the rules above are followed!
- ★ Each page will be 7" x 10". A template with a bleed area will be made available to all contributors of the zine!

Submission Example



This was my submission for the Character Design Zine 2020! As you can see it is full digital color, includes a front/back view, and has the character's name displayed. After this I added whatever else I wanted, which included an illustrated page (left), a character info bubble, his weapon, and some expressions! Something like this would be completely acceptable for the zine.

Schedule

- Applications: April 23rd- May 21st
- Judging: May 22 - June 4th
- Email Distribution: June 5th
- Check-In 1: July 3rd
- Check-In 2: July 31st
- Check-In 3: August 28th
- Physical Production: August 29th - September 30th
- Preorders Live: September 13th - October 4th

NOTE: Physical production and sales projections subject to changes! It is dependent on the our physical distributors and their schedules, and though we've been lucky to have accurate distribution schedules in the past, we are always prepared for it!

FAQ

Is this zine for-profit or charity?

Undecided! Our last donation to charity went well and we'd be happy to do it all over again. However, there are also alternate goals we are considering trying to meet, and while that may be the transition to a for-profit zine, we are interested in seeing if there's a way we can give back to the small art community online. Proposed ideas have been meeting sales stretch goals to gift anything to one artist online such as a digital copy of Clip Studio Paint, Clip Studio Paint EX, a display tablet, etc. This is not decided, but is a possible means of use for the zine's profits!

Will the zine have NSFW content?

Not at this time, no. We want all ages to be able to own this zine!

If I have created NSFW content, will my application be disqualified?

Not at all! While this zine cannot accept any NSFW content for reasons listed above, we recognize that the creation of NSFW artwork isn't inherently problematic. The only NSFW content on your social media that would disqualify your application is if you've created the content either as a minor or explicitly for a minor.

Can I add horror elements to my design?

Yes, but to an extent! Blood, wounds, or anything along those lines, would be acceptable. However, excessive gore, mutilation, body horror, or anything into extreme themes of gore or violence may not be approved for final submission.

Will the zine feature writers?

Unfortunately, no. This zine primarily focuses on character design elements such as a turnaround reference, design choice, and breakdowns, and we wish to keep the zine purely centered around the visual aspect of character design only.

Will contributors receive a physical copy?

Yes! As with the CDZ 2020, all artists on the zine will receive a free copy. However, international artists (outside the US) will be required to pay their own shipping. We will also offer the chance to contributors to purchase additional copies to sell at conventions!

Where will the zine be sold?

The zine will be sold on our [Gumroad](#), where you can also purchase the CDZ 2020! All proceeds of last year's zine will go towards this zine's production.

Will the zine have merch?

This zine will include prints from artists who wish to make separate illustrations of their characters to bundle with the physical zine!

Will you be sending acceptance and rejection letters?

Yes. Like the last zine, we will be sending both rejection and acceptance emails.

Do I have to list my legal name for the zine?

Nope! Your legal name will not be listed on the zine unless it is the name you wish to be there.

If I use two pages, may I create a reference for two different characters?

No. If you are on the zine, you will only be making a design for one character!

Can this be my pre-existing character with a pre-existing design, or do I have to make something new?

Your choice! So long as you do not submit a pre-existing reference, your design strategy is entirely up to you.

Can I include pets, familiars, or companions?

Yes! While you will only be creating a design for one character, tagalong details like a pet or any sort of small companion is fine. This pet or companion doesn't require its own reference or angles!

Can we mix traditional and digital work for our submission (ie: traditional ink and digital color)?

Yes. The general rule is that so long as the final render is digital, this is acceptable!

Do I maintain creative rights over my character design, or will it belong to the zine?

You maintain full rights! The zine does not own any creative rights to your character or design, and they remain entirely with their creators.

Can the character have anthropomorphic features, or be a furry character?

Of course! Furries, half-antrhos (centaurs, mermaids), or humanoid animals can be used for the zine. So long as it follows up the zine's theme and guidelines, you're solid!

Can I use this character design to make merch around or to make sales independently?

Of course! As stated, you maintain full creative rights over your own design. In fact, we would love if this zine helped you cultivate a character design you can benefit from!

Can I post my submission progress on social media?

Unfortunately no. However, cropped WIPs are acceptable!

What if I'm accepted but don't have a character picked out yet?!

Don't worry! So long as you can select a character design you wish to explore in time to follow out check in dates, you are fine!

Hope to hear from you all soon!
~Kinja