

Loish Patreon ♥

TUTORIAL CHEAT SHEET // CREATING INTERESTING & EYE-CATCHING REFERENCE STUDIES

KEY LESSONS

- How to **divert from your reference image** in order to create an artistic interpretation, rather than a copy
- How to choose an **area of focus**, and how to balance that out with more simplified elements
- How to use a creative approach to **rendering, color, and sketching** in order to make your reference study a reflection of your unique artistic vision.

OTHER RESOURCES

> EXERCISES FOR IMPROVING YOUR SKILLS

This tutorial elaborates on the idea of starting a drawing session with an area of focus in mind, in order to maximize our learning process.

> CONSTRUCTING FACES & EXPRESSIONS

This tutorial talks about which shapes I use to construct a face.

> SCULPTING WITH COLOR

This tutorial elaborates more on the process of adding color to a sketch, specifically the process of sculpting detail out of a mix of random colors.

REFERENCE STUDIES: MY TECHNIQUES

These techniques help me to create studies that are not just a copy of the reference image.

STYLIZED PROPORTIONS

I usually exaggerate and play around with the shapes of my reference studies. When drawing characters, I usually give them more cartoony features.

EXPRESSIVENESS & ROUGHNESS

I usually keep some parts of the drawing rough and messy, which firmly establishes the artwork as an artist's interpretation.

EXAGGERATED COLOR & LIGHT

I take a stylized approach to color and light that clearly establishes that I am not trying to create a copy of her, the reference image.

TIPS

BRAINSTORM IDEAS IN ADVANCE

Try to think of areas of focus, as well as areas of simplification, before you get started on a drawing session. Pull up these ideas when you have time for a drawing session.

BE SELECTIVE ABOUT YOUR REFERENCE

Don't just base your choice of reference on how pretty the picture is. Try to find reference that gives you something to work with.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO KEEP ART ROUGH

If you tend to get stuck on the details, challenge yourself to find out how little detail is needed in order to create an interesting reference study.

SECTION	TIMECODE	DESCRIPTION
INTRO	02:45	common mistakes
	07:01	area of focus vs. area of simplification
	10:05	my techniques for creating interesting reference studies
DEMO	19:25	initial sketch
	26:47	version one: monochromatic
	32:16	version two: random colors
	36:29	recap & comparison
CONCLUSION	38:04	tips