

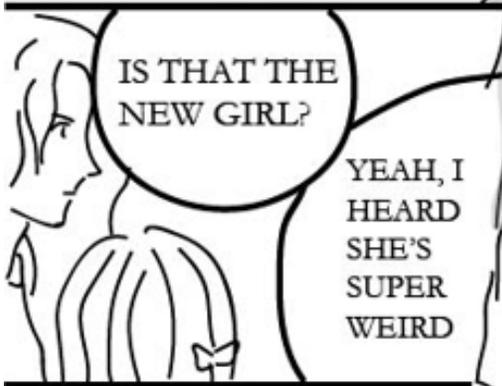


I'VE COME TO  
LIVE WITH MY  
GRANDPAR-  
ENTS





I'M NOT FROM  
AROUND HERE



I USED TO  
LIVE IN THE  
CITY

UNTIL I  
MOVED TO  
ARVERLOCH

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May 10, 2017

## Manga Final Project

### Anatomy of a Shojo Manga

#### Summary and Intent

For this project I looked into what makes up a shojo manga, and how a shojo manga is reproduced. Pouring through multiple volumes I attempted to dissect the “anatomy” of a shojo manga.

#### Learning Through Copying

The making portion of this project was above all else an exercise in learning through copying. Despite being an art major, drawing and line has never been a focus of my practice. As an expressive painter it was difficult to return to drawing. However, manga is an art form learnt by many through copying, thus making it possible for a wide range of people to use and configure this visual language. I hoped that the pedestrian nature of this form would allow me to grasp the basics quickly and cleanly.

#### Panel Layout

Panel layout in shojo manga is particularly known for running across borders and blending panels together. As a result I tried to make my panel layouts equally innovative and boundary breaking. I looked through several different manga to find panel layouts fitting to the scenes I was attempting to make. Once I had these reference points I adapted the layouts

to fit the action I needed to convey. (see figure 1 and 2 at the end of this summary for the reference images used)

### Cinematography

Cinematography has had a strong influence on manga and manga artists over the past century. As a result I decided to try and find my own inspiration from film and television. For my cinematic influence I chose “Hex”, a short running, supernatural television series set in a British Boarding school. While the show did not last long due to a poorly written script, departing actors, and a diminishing viewership it’s cinematic techniques remain as excellent examples in voyeurism. The cinematographers often film action from behind a window, with leaves or branches in front of the action, and from behind a half open door. This creates the feeling that the protagonist, Cassie, is being watched constantly by her love interest, the omnipresent nephilim Azazel. To recreate this tone I copied the overlaying of scenery on to the action of panels. (see figure 3, 4, and 5 for example stills from “Hex”)

### Emotion

Central to shoyo manga is emotion. I focused on the iconic, oversized, tear-brimming shoyo manga eye. I used panel layouts as reference points and set-up a page so the focus was on the eyes and thus the emotion.

### Folklore/Cultural Magic

It is common among shoyo manga for there to be elements drawn from Japanese folklore or cultural magic. For example, the manga “Black Bird” which features a Tengu – a creature in Japanese folk religion which is seen as a god or demon in different iterations – as the romantic male hero. Similarly, Kamisama Kiss features an assortment of Japanese

demons, deities, and shrine settings. Overall this adds a cultural specificity to the manga utilizing such elements. I attempted to recreate this common feature by using elements from Scottish Folklore and Cultural Magic. This branched out further to clothing and setting.

### Experimentation/New Technology

Experimentation has always been a key aspect in manga. Following from this I decided to experiment by using different technologies. I began my designs traditionally with pencil followed by ink. The designs were then scanned in to my computer and I outlined them digitally. Deviating, I brought in photos of locations which I had digitally altered to make up parts of the page.

Figures:

Figure 1. Watase, Yuu. *Fushigi Yugi*. San Francisco, CA: Viz Media, 2009, 26.



Figure 2. Sakurakoji, Kanoko. *Black bird*. San Francisco: VIZ Media, 2001, 2.



Figure 3. Jones, Julian, and Lucy Watkins, writers. *Hex*. Sky One. October 17, 2004, season 1 episode 2.



Figure 4. Jones, Julian, and Lucy Watkins, writers. *Hex*. Sky One. October 17, 2004, season 2, episode 5.



Figure 5. Jones, Julian, and Lucy Watkins, writers. *Hex*. Sky One. October 17, 2004, season 1 episode 4.



#### Works cited.

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Jones, Julian, and Lucy Watkins, writers. *Hex*. Sky One. October 17, 2004.

Sakurakoji, Kanoko. *Black bird*. San Francisco: VIZ Media, 2001.

Suzuki, Julietta, and Tomo Kimura. *Kamisama kiss*. San Francisco, CA: Viz Media, 2010.

Watase, Yuu. *Fushigi Yugi*. San Francisco, CA: Viz Media, 2009.

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