

Character Design

WITH RUBII RED



Rubii Red
You Should Fear Me 2021
 © Rubii Red

About Rubii Red

Melbourne-based artist Rubii Red is a proud Lama Lama woman from Cape York, Queensland. Anime and comic books are a strong influence on her work, which includes portraiture, abstract line work, character design and fan art. Rubii uses her art to speak about issues that are important to her and her community, like seeing more First Nations figures represented in media, especially in gaming, streaming, film and television.

What is character design?

Character design is the full development of a character including personality, background, aesthetic and overall appearance. Rubii starts with an overview of her character, and then experiments with elements such as pose, proportion, shape, colour, expression, clothing and hair. By enhancing or exaggerating these features, she can communicate key ideas to the viewer and build a memorable character.

'NEVER BE AFRAID TO STEP OUTSIDE OF THE BOX. EXPERIMENT WITH YOUR CHARACTERS, WITH YOUR WORK. BE BOLD AND DARING WHEN IT COMES TO DESIGNING YOUR CHARACTER.'

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Use Rubii's tips and techniques to create your own original character (OC).

1. Concept

You Should Fear Me is one of a series of works in which Rubii depicts staunch First Nations women or women-identifying characters. Rubii has always loved the idea of a team of people coming together to save the day - like the Avengers. In *You Should Fear Me*, she poses the question, is she a villain or a hero?

Decide on a character you would like to create. Consider elements such as their personality and background.

2. Process

Rubii spends a lot of time practising and experimenting with her style. A work will often emerge from this process. In *You Should Fear Me*, Rubii has experimented with the effects of light and darkness, focusing on how the glow of the fire would illuminate the character's face.

Fill a page with warm-up sketches of your character. You can use these sketches by Rubii to help you get started.

3. Gather

Rubii gathers reference images from anime and comic books to use as inspiration. She then reworks the images to suit her own style. These drawings of eyes by Rubii show how she has focused on one detail of the face. You can see she has worked to create different expressions and studied the eye from different angles. Notice the iris of the eye is cut off by the top eyelid and never seen completely. Rubii has also used broken lines and different shades of the pencil to create form and a sense of liveliness.

Focus on one detail of your character to develop.



Design your character

Fill this page with warm-up sketches of your character. You can use these sketches by Rubii to help get you started. Once you have a clear idea of your character, draw them from the waist up.

