

# Worlds of AMANO

Yoshitaka Amano

Originally published in France, *Worlds of Amano* presents a unique overview of Yoshitaka Amano's many diverse works.

While known to many for his groundbreaking design work for films and video games such as the Final Fantasy series, this book provides an introduction into some of his lesser-known works. Eclectic and stunning, *Worlds of Amano* draws on numerous projects from over the last thirty years, with many illustrations collected here for the first time, capturing the rare beauty and inspiration of Amano's vision.

As you journey through the many worlds of Amano's imagination, prepare yourself for a true visual experience.

Worlds  
of **AMANO**

# Worlds of AMANO

Conceived and edited by Jean Wacquet  
English translation by Samantha Robertson





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The editor gives his heartfelt thanks to Mœbius for his superb graphics, as well as to Amano's team for their enthusiastic participation during this work's long gestation and birth

# Introduction

If the viewer sees the indelible influences of the great masters of Art Nouveau in the work of Amano, the viewer also discovers the influences of Disney, or one of the many heroes of Japanese animation and comics. An artist without blenders, Amano marries these artistic and aesthetic forms, using classical techniques and modern technologies to draw for video games, cartoons, and 3D figures. Whatever his canvas, his talent seduces the viewer with the scenic avant-garde, the feeling of Klimt and Mucha as well as traditional Asian art. No medium seems to escape his curiosity or his creative voracity.

Because of this, Amano's work has been able to reach the homes and hearts of people of diverse ages, cultures, and origins. While Amano shows his work at prestigious galleries all over the world, at the same time he lends his signature style to the depiction of popular comics heroes, including Wolverine, Elektra, and Sandman. He is known to millions of adolescent video game fans for his phenomenal work on the Final Fantasy series, and is simultaneously held in very high regard within the far more insular world of high art. His work spans the divide between high art and popular culture, destroying, in the process, the numerous barriers between the different forms of graphic expression.

In this, Amano is a true popular artist, in the fullest sense of the word.

He is a man who knows no limit other than his inexhaustible imagination.

a man of many talents

—IW



Mobius/Amano  
The door of the worlds

When one visits Mobius to evoke Amano, it is like sitting down Major Grubert and asking him to open the magic mirror that separates the worlds of the two creators.

The creative encounter between Mobius and Amano was inevitable, as they share so similar a creative vision. For another reason, it is almost certain that their collaborations will continue.



## CHAPTER 1

# Beginnings

Over the last thirty years, Yoshitaka Amano has produced hundreds of drawings and paintings for popular as well as high-art audiences. *Tristan and Isolde*, *Guin Saga*, *Vampire Hunter D*, and *Chimera* are just a few of the dozens of popular narratives he has illustrated since he began working as a freelance illustrator in 1981. Since then, Amano has achieved international success. An early anthology of his work, *Mater*, published in 1984, is now in its nineteenth edition. Cumulatively, the books that Amano has illustrated over the course of his career have sold more than one million copies. He is currently the most well-known Japanese painter in the world.



Orfeo  
Acrylic, colored ink  
360 x 560 mm  
2010



Legend: Eyes  
Acrylic, colored ink  
794 x 582 mm  
(31x23 in)



Eternal Knight  
Acrylic, colored ink  
90 x 100 cm



Counter-attack  
Acrylic, colored ink  
60 x 30 mm  
2011



Lady Warrior  
Acrylic, colored ink  
45 x 25 cm  
2000



White Moon Night  
Acrylic, colored ink  
106 x 62 cm  
1983





Yugi - Kimjoo-cho  
Acrylic, colored ink  
100 x 305 mm  
1990



Yappu - Nimpochō  
Acrylic, colored ink  
760 x 560 mm  
2010



Kapyeon - Nimpocho  
kyejeon cabinet inlaid  
85 x 560 mm  
17th



Ninpo - Chushigura  
Acrylic, colored ink  
760 x 560 mm  
1995



Aki Tsubaki  
Slips and Ornamental Hairpin  
Acrylic, colored ink  
50 x 30 mm  
2006



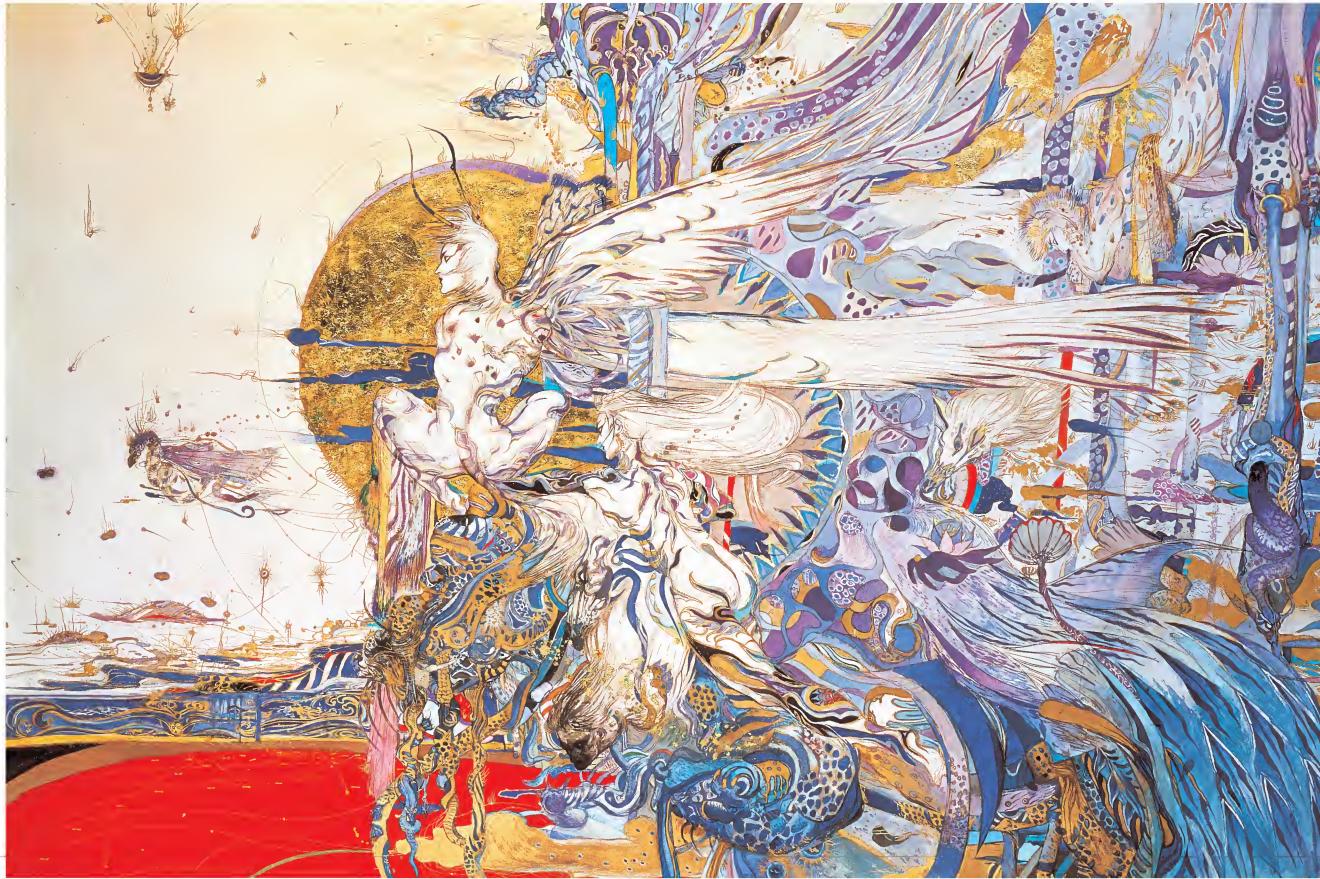
Kunioichi Ningpocho  
Acrylic, colored ink  
70 x 30 cm  
2006



Edo - Kimochi  
Acrylic, colored ink  
100 x 300 mm  
2006



Alice Erlöva - *Fascination*  
Acrylic, charcoal, ink  
70 x 100 cm  
2008



III - Teia  
Acrylic, colored ink, gold pigment, gold leaf  
100 x 100 mm  
2010



Ka-Ten  
Acrylic, colored ink, gold pigment, gold leaf  
130 x 1900 mm  
(110)



III - Isha  
Acrylic, Colored ink, gold pigment, gold leaf  
100 x 100 cm  
2008



Concert  
1960, colored ink  
100 x 70 mm  
(10)



## CHAPTER II

# The eroticism of The Tale of Genji

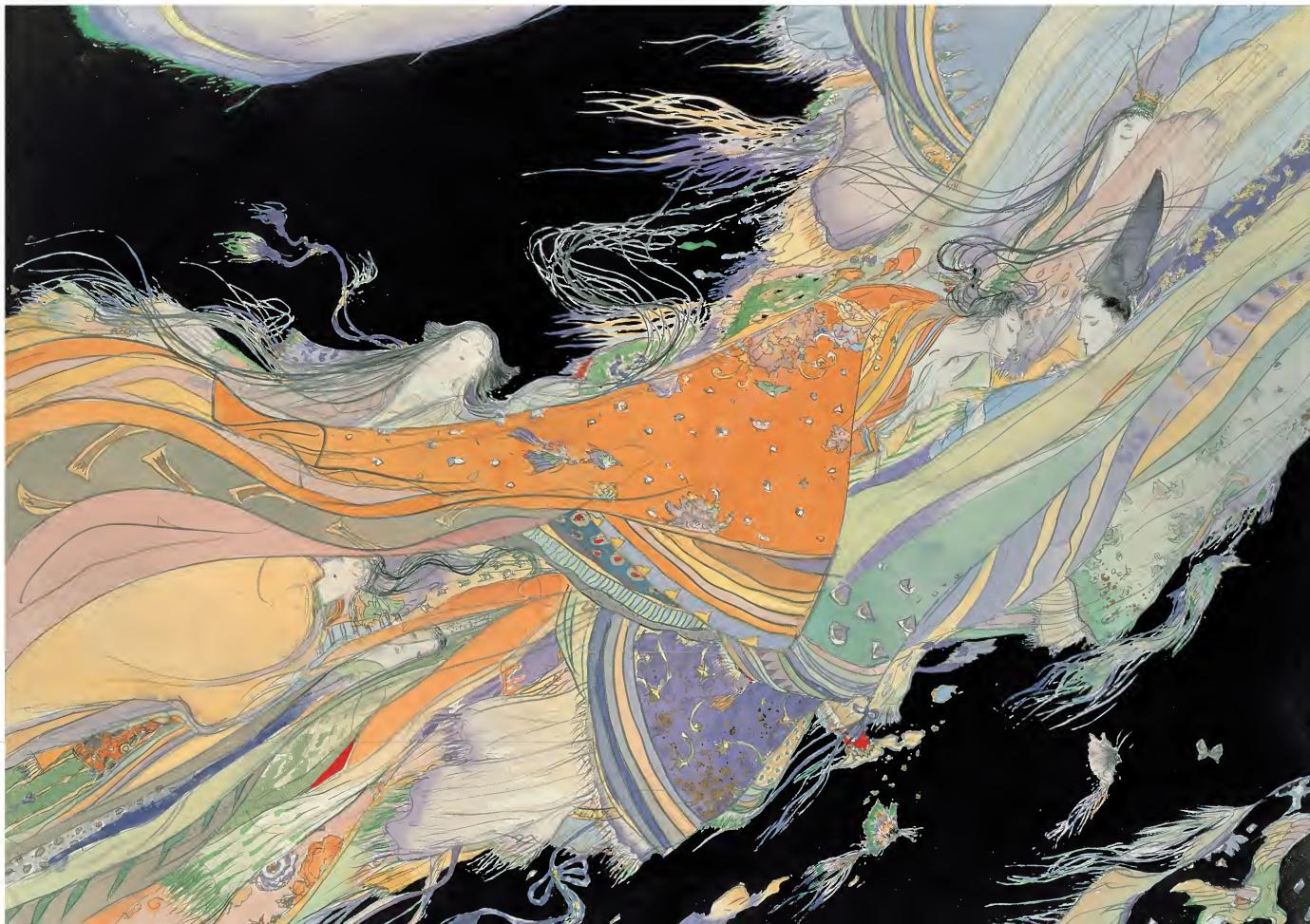
*The Tale of Genji* is considered the oldest literary work in Japanese prose. It was written at the beginning of the eleventh century by Murasaki Shikibu, a widowed member of the Imperial court. In the fifty-four published volumes of the story, Shikibu recounts the adventures of Hikaru Genji, an intelligent prince on a life-long quest for the temporal pleasures of the flesh and the utopian pleasures of the soul.



Acrylic, colored ink  
550 x 300 mm  
(21.6 x 11.8 in)



Acrylic, colored ink  
600 x 500 mm  
(1960)



Acrylic, colored ink  
370 x 190 cm  
1990



Acrylic, colored ink  
95 x 39 cm  
(38 x 15 in.)

Acrylic, colored ink  
95 x 39 cm  
(38 x 15 in.)

Acrylic, colored ink  
95 x 39 cm  
(38 x 15 in.)

Acrylic, colored ink  
95 x 39 cm  
(38 x 15 in.)





Acrylic, colored inks  
560 x 855 mm  
(180)



Acrylic, colored inks  
560 x 385 mm  
(180)



## CHAPTER III

# The 1001 nights

*Princess Budou*—Amano's vision of the legendary *Arabian Nights*—was published in 1996, after more than three years of preparation.

Before the work had been released, it attracted the attention of Hollywood composer David Newman, who was working on a series of short films accompanied by a classical orchestra. On seeing Amano's work, Newman was immediately convinced that Princess Budou would be an ideal subject for his "Filmharmonics." In April, 1998, Amano's paintings merged with the music from the Los Angeles Philharmonic to create a twenty-minute visual ballet. Over the course of the film, Princess Budou and Prince Kamal dive into the heart of a maddening love while riding on a flying carpet.



**kiss**  
Afshin, colored ink, gold pigments  
63 x 110 cm  
1795



Prince  
Acrylic, colored ink, gold pigment  
100 x 62.7 cm  
2000

A Voice  
Acrylic, colored ink, gold pigment  
100 x 100 cm  
1996





Gentle Solitary  
Acrylic, colored ink, gold paper  
330 x 630 mm  
2010



Princess  
Itoh, colored ink, gold pigment  
310 x 527 mm  
(122 x 207 in)



CHAPTER IV

# Chimera

Chimera, the series of horror and suspense novels by Baku Yumemakura, was first published in 1982 and has since grown to more than sixteen volumes. Amano has provided illustrations for not only these, but also for many of Yumemakura's other works.

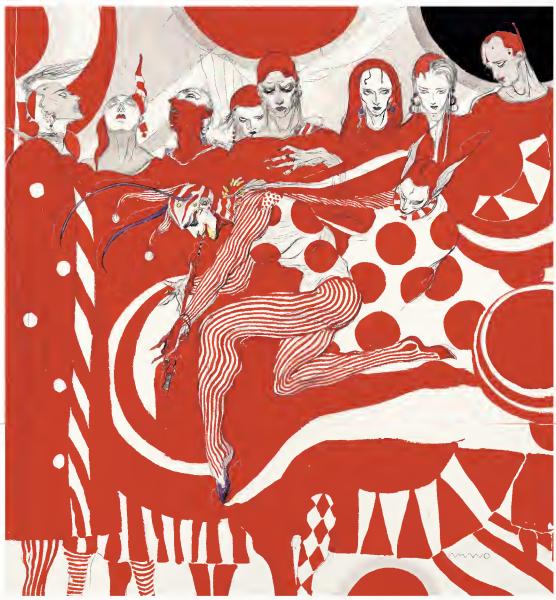




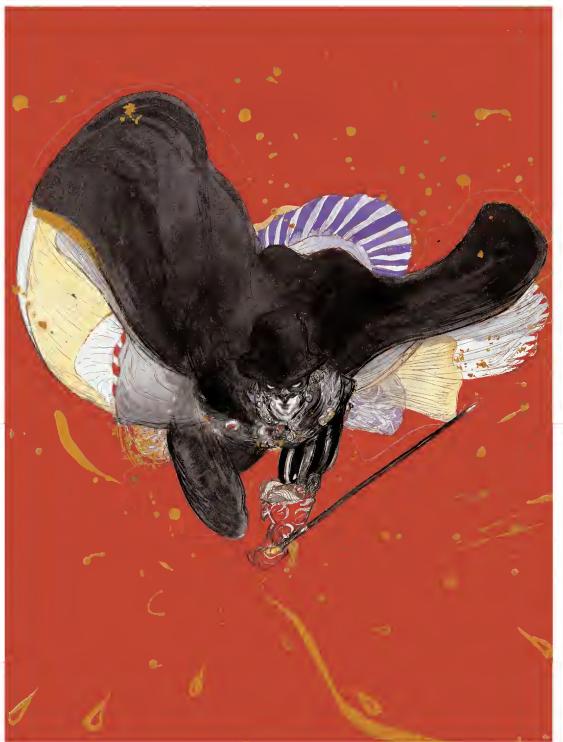
## CHAPTER V

# Rampo Edogawa

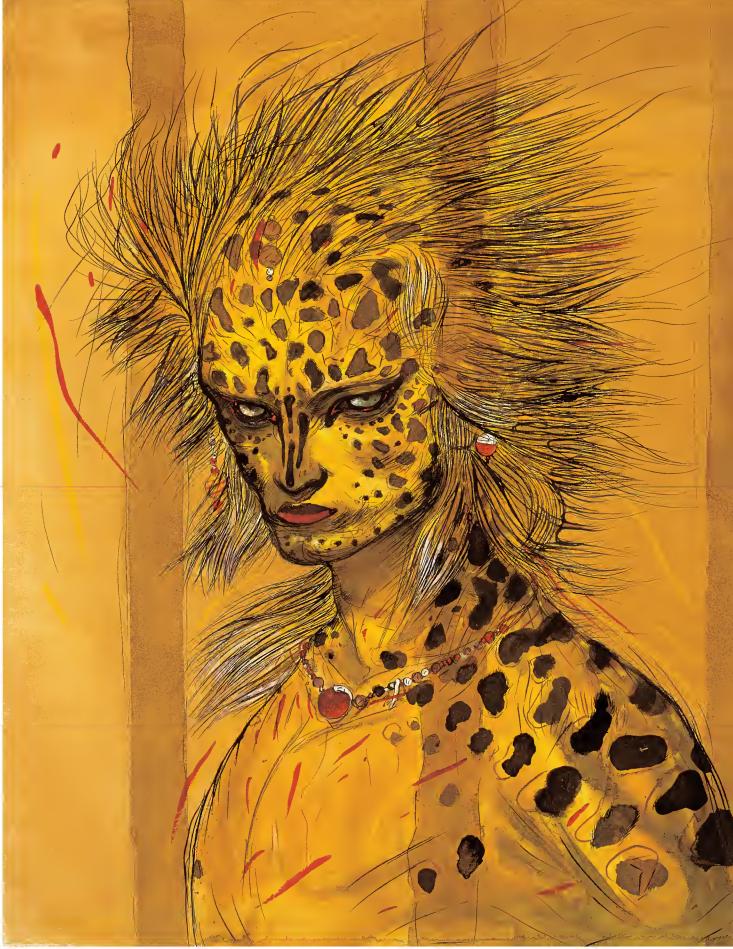
Accompanying writer Rampo Edogawa's more than sixty-five titles, these illustrations were influenced by Edogawa's creative manifesto: 'The present is a dream, the dreams of the night are the reality. Amano freely transcribed and interpreted the essence of Edogawa's work.'



*Bad Boys*  
Acrylic, colored ink  
55 x 38 cm  
1988



*I'm the Man of Twenty Faces*  
Acrylic, colored ink  
48 x 38 cm  
1988



*The Golden Panther*  
Acrylic, colored ink  
42 x 38 cm  
1988



The Sorcerer  
Acrylic, colored ink  
380 x 580 mm  
(15 x 23 in)



## CHAPTER VI

# Shishi-0

Between 1985 and 1992, Amano was commissioned by the literary magazine *Shishi-0* to illustrate some of the magazine's covers. With his signature style, Amano captured the sensations of the seasons, as well as the social trends of the time.



Icon Alab : Albino Warrior  
Acrylic, colored ink  
50 x 50 cm  
2010



Animal  
Acrylic, colored ink  
750 x 500 mm  
(30" x 20")



Dreams of the Goddess  
Acrylic, colored ink  
82 x 60 mm  
2012



Move I  
Acrylic, colored ink  
760 x 500 mm  
2001



Icon Alastair Twinkie  
Acrylic, colored ink, gold pigment  
55 x 56 cm  
2010

Icon Artist: *Midnight Sun*  
Acrylic, colored ink  
76 x 50 cm  
1990





Icon Sorcerer  
Acrylic, canvas on  
wood, 180 x 180 cm  
(1980)



Icon Sorcerer - Sariin in the Light  
Acrylic, ink and gold leaf  
76 x 50 cm  
(100)



Ikon Alat : Fruit of Paradise  
Acrylic, colored ink  
102 x 560 mm



Icon Altot : Red & Black  
Acrylic, colored ink  
100 x 100 mm  
2011



## CHAPTER VII

# Elric and the works of Michael Moorcock

Single-handedly establishing the standard for fantasy illustration in Japan, Amano drew a series of covers for the most well-known works of writer Michael Moorcock. Moorcock appreciated Amano's illustrations so much, he decided to use them on the English-language editions of his novels



White Knight  
1986, colored ink  
94 x 94 cm.  
(18)



Determination  
Acrylic, colored ink  
600 x 381 mm  
1990



Albionne  
Acrylic, colored ink  
50 x 30 cm  
(20 x 12 in)



**Battle**  
India ink  
30 x 20 cm  
(12 x 8 in)



**In the Wind**  
India ink  
30 x 20 cm  
(12 x 8 in)



Fighting with Darkness  
Ink on  
21 x 40 mm  
1980



Dragon Head  
Ink on  
21 x 16 mm  
1980



## CHAPTER VIII

# Celtic Fantasy and Fairies

The battles and adventures of the Celtic heroes provided Amano fertile ground for his visual imagination. The artist depicted the heroes of the Celtic legends—and their impish friends—with his signature zest, and not without a little bit of light-hearted humor.



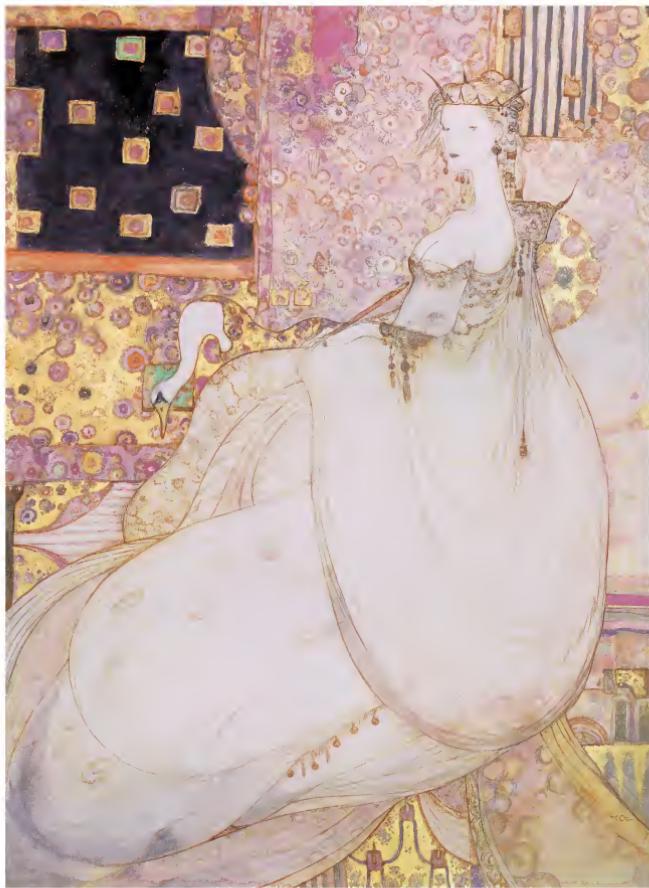
Lancelot  
Acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 380 mm



Brownie  
Acrylic, oil paint  
50 x 35 cm  
2006



Hebetrot  
Ljós. ólfest ák  
1991. 30 x 20  
cm



*Swan Maidens*  
Acrylic, charcoal ink, gold pigment, gold leaf  
100 x 507 mm



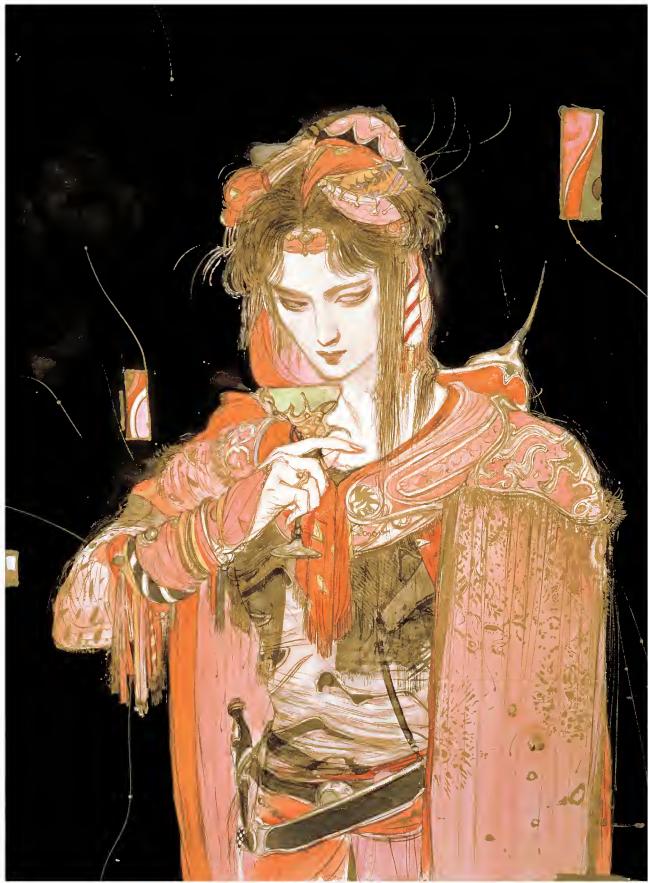
**Titania**  
Acrylic, colored ink  
918 x 653 mm  
(36 x 26 in)



## CHAPTER IX

# The chronicles of Arslan

In the heroic fantasy novel by Yoshiki Tanaka, Arslan is the prince of a country that has been conquered by its enemies. The epic narrates Arslan's fight to unite his people and regain his throne.



Road of Sweat and Blood  
Acrylic, colored ink  
560 x 380 mm  
1998

Pegasus' Dream I  
Acrylic, colored ink  
560 x 380 mm  
1998





Pegasus' Dream II  
Acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 300 mm  
(1989)



The Banner Waves  
Acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 357 mm  
(1989)



## CHAPTER X

# Guin Saga

Guin Saga is the tale of a great warrior with the head of a panther whose powers are coveted by his friends and his enemies alike. The story, written by Kaoru Kurimoto, unfolds in an undefined time and place. Amano began illustrating the Guin Saga for its twentieth volume, and it has since become one of the most popular Japanese adventure series.



Wall  
Size: 65 x  
100 x 360 mm  
2000



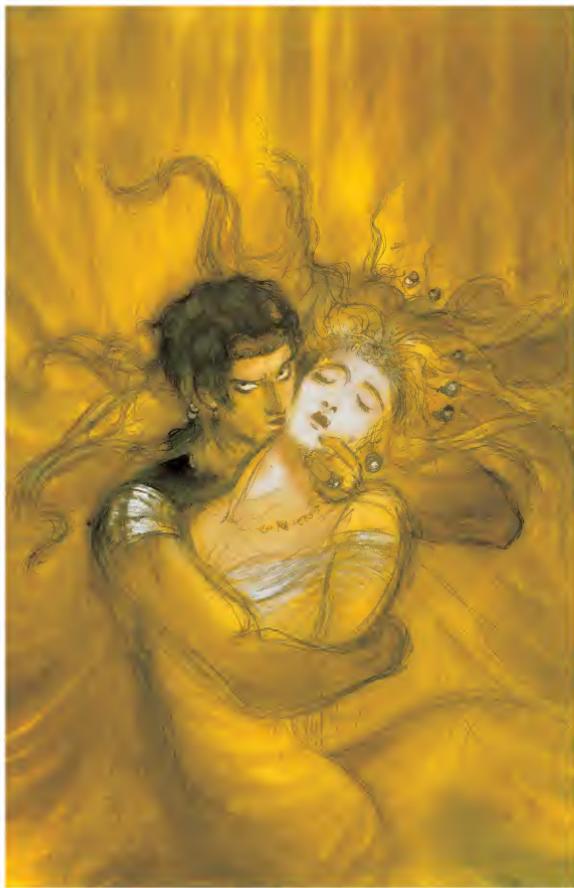
The Leonine Locus  
Acrylic, colored ink  
150 x 180 cm  
1990



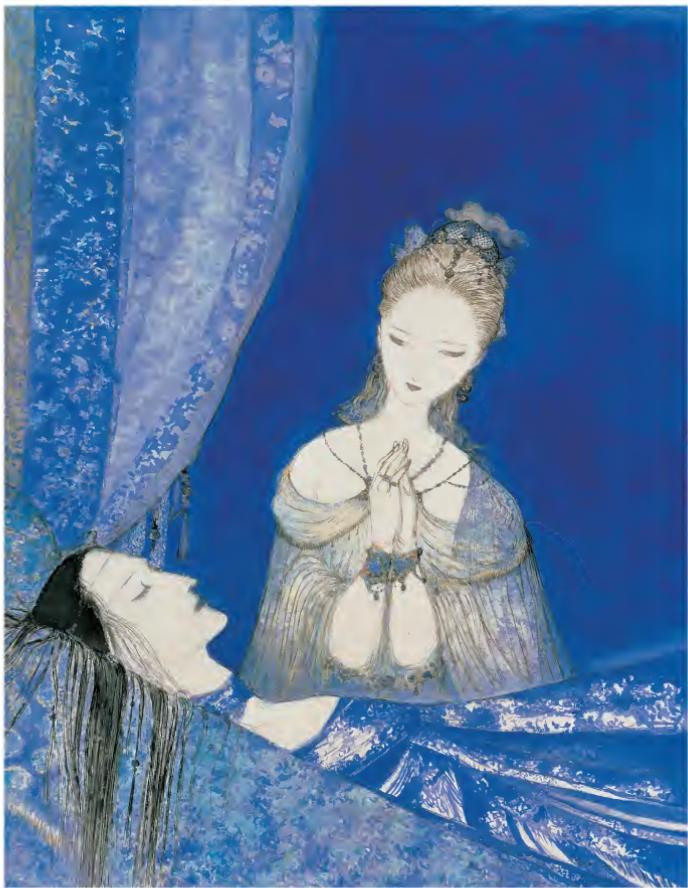
James' Jiggle  
Acrylic, colored ink  
80 x 100 cm  
2000



The Stare  
Acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 375 mm  
(2000)



The Black Blaze  
Acrylic, colored ink  
70 x 50 mm  
1990



Ideal the Doomsday  
Acrylic, colored ink  
90 x 40 cm  
(35.5 x 15.75 in)



The Prince of Scarlet  
Acrylic, colored ink  
50 x 35 cm  
(19 1/2 x 13 3/4 in.)



A Guidepost  
litografi  
100 x 70 cm  
2008



## CHAPTER XI

# Vampire Hunter D

Out of the dozens of popular tales Amano has illustrated, his work on Hideyuki Kikuchi's *Vampire Hunter D* series has without question given him the most international *cache*. These illustrations accompanied the original publications of the vampire books. In them, Amano focuses his attention on magnificent studies of the series' protagonist, D, a mysterious human/vampire hybrid.



A Portrait  
Acrylic, colored ink  
210 x 300 mm  
2006



Encounter  
Arylic, colored  
80 x 50 cm  
(31.5 x 19.7 in)



9  
Acrylic, colored ink  
65 x 38 cm  
25.6 x 15 in



With the Wind  
Acrylic, colored ink  
540 x 397 mm  
(21.25 x 15.6 in)



Joker  
Acrylic, charcoal ink  
557 x 401 mm  
(22 x 16 in)



Princess Rose  
Acrylic, colored ink  
50 x 70 cm  
2006



A Dream on the Moon  
Acrylic, colored ink  
115 x 30 mm  
2006



North Sea Navigator  
Acrylic, colored ink  
56 x 37 in  
2002



A Knight by Moonlight  
Acrylic, colored ink  
32 x 50 cm  
2006



To Dream  
Acrylic, colored ink  
565 x 380 mm  
22 x 15 in



Warrior with his Twin Shadows  
Acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 380 mm  
2006



Flowerly Dancing  
Acrylic, colored ink  
102 x 500 mm  
2008



Buster  
Acrylic, colored ink  
80 x 67 cm  
2006



An Affair  
Acrylic, colored ink  
50 x 70 mm  
2001



Stranger  
Acrylic, colored ink  
50 x 30 cm  
2012

Nocturne  
Ariane, colored ink  
510 x 380 mm  
2001





Blank  
Acrylic, ink  
50 x 40 cm  
2010



KISS  
Acrylic, colored ink  
16 x 18 cm  
2000



D - Nocturne  
Ink on  
30 x 30 mm  
1985



D - Nocturne  
Ink on  
30 x 30 mm  
1985



Vampire Hunter D - ink Sketch  
160 x 110 mm  
31 x 48 mm  
1:100



D - Fallen Angel  
160 x 110 mm  
31 x 48 mm  
1:100



## CHAPTER XI

# Final Fantasy

Anyone who has ever held a video-game controller knows Final Fantasy, one of the classics of the video-game world. Amano's hand can be felt throughout the elegant and beautiful conceptual details that have given rise to the Final Fantasy universe. More than any other project, his work on Final Fantasy has earned him celebrity in the gaming world. Since the late 1980s, more than twenty-five million copies of games in the Final Fantasy universe have been sold.



XII

130



XII

131



Final Fantasy I  
Beheimoth  
Acrylic, colored ink  
30 x 555 mm  
(12 x 22 in)



Final Fantasy II  
Main Characters  
Acrylic, colored ink  
76 x 550 mm  
(30 x 22 in)



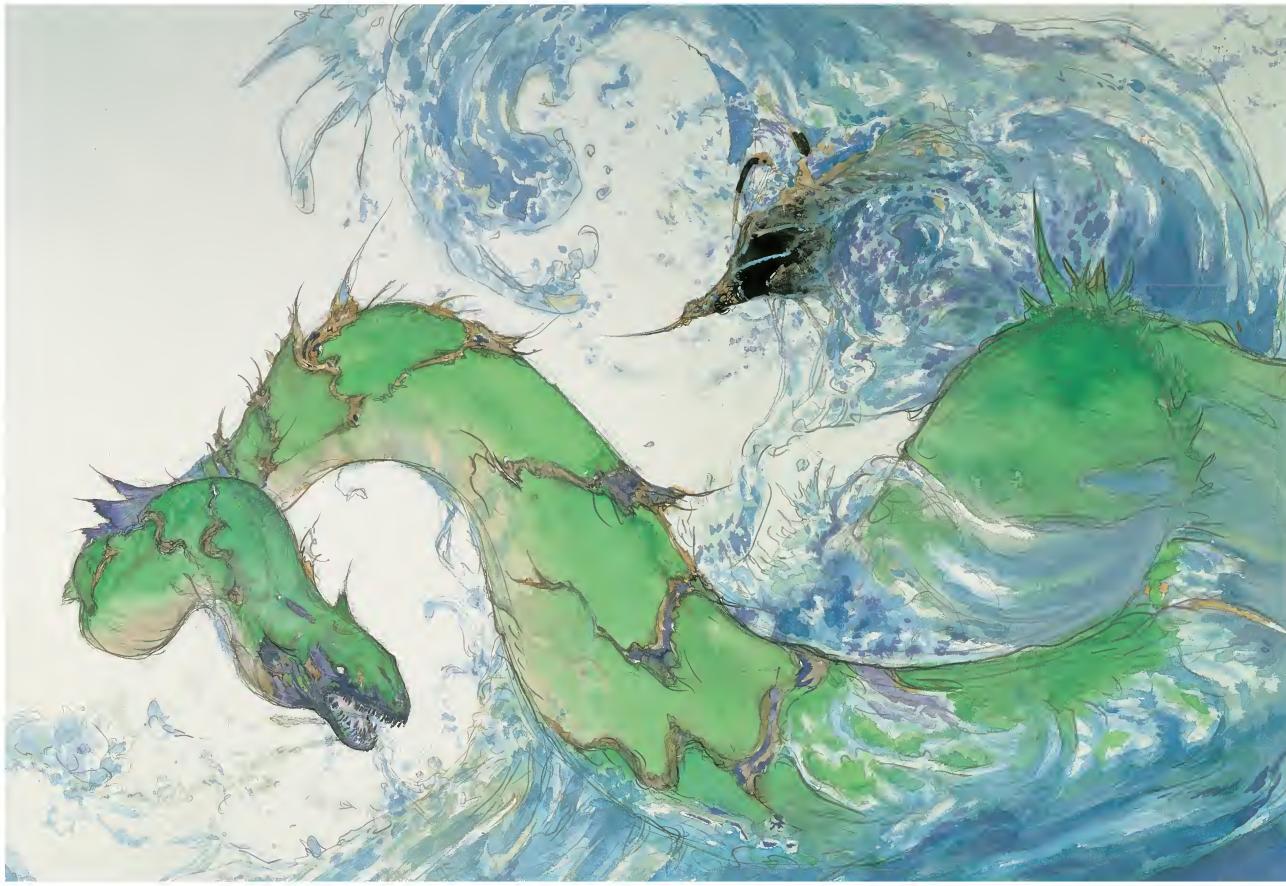
Final Fantasy III  
Image Sketch  
Acrylic, colored ink  
40 x 95 cm  
1986



Final Fantasy IV ·  
The Blimp  
Acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 100 mm  
1981



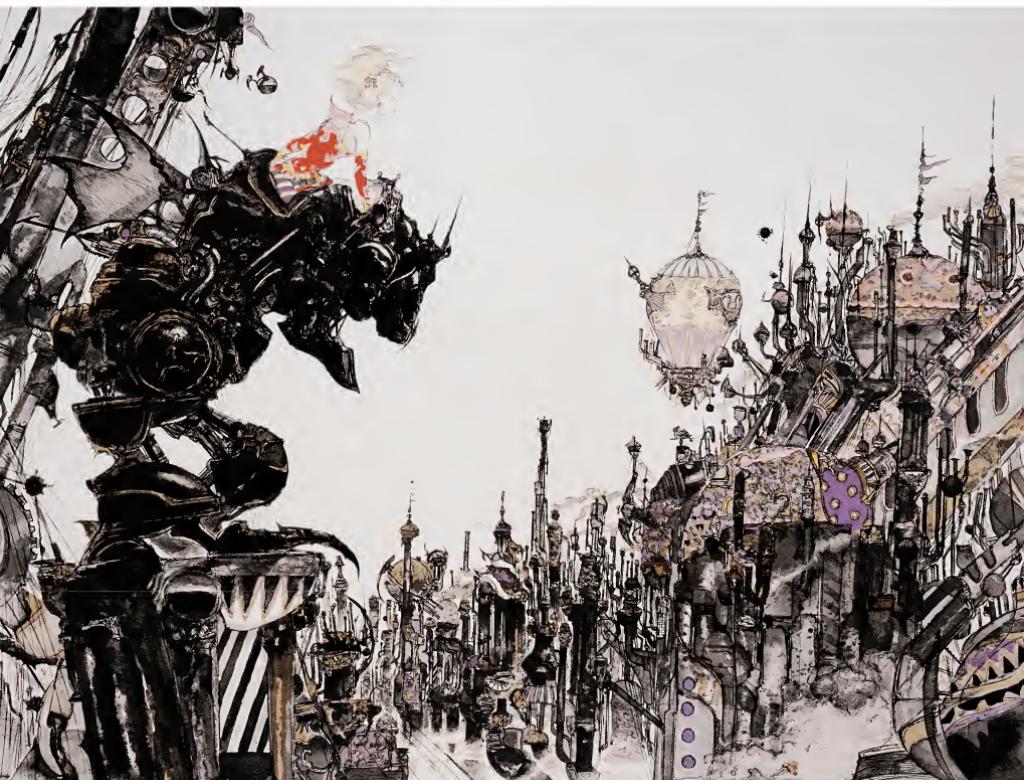
Final Fantasy VI ·  
Ultros  
Ultragraph  
79 x 59 mm  
1981



Final Fantasy V -  
Syldra  
Acrylic, colored ink  
100 x 510 mm  
1986



Final Fantasy V ·  
Castle in the Sky  
Acrylic, colored ink  
30 x 70 cm  
1980



Final Fantasy VI -  
The City  
Acrylic, colored ink  
630 x 530 mm  
(250)



Final Fantasy VII -  
A Blank  
Silkscreen  
480 x 100 cm  
1999

Final Fantasy VII -  
Waiting  
Silkscreen  
480 x 90 cm  
1999





Final Fantasy VII -  
Calmness  
Sakurai  
500 x 765 mm  
(1997)



Final Fantasy VII -  
The Master  
Sakurai  
700 x 595 mm  
(1997)



Final Fantasy VII -  
The Challenge  
Acryl  
58 x 62 cm  
(190)



Final Fantasy VIII -  
Rubbing over with Force  
Sikken  
118 x 152 cm  
(190)



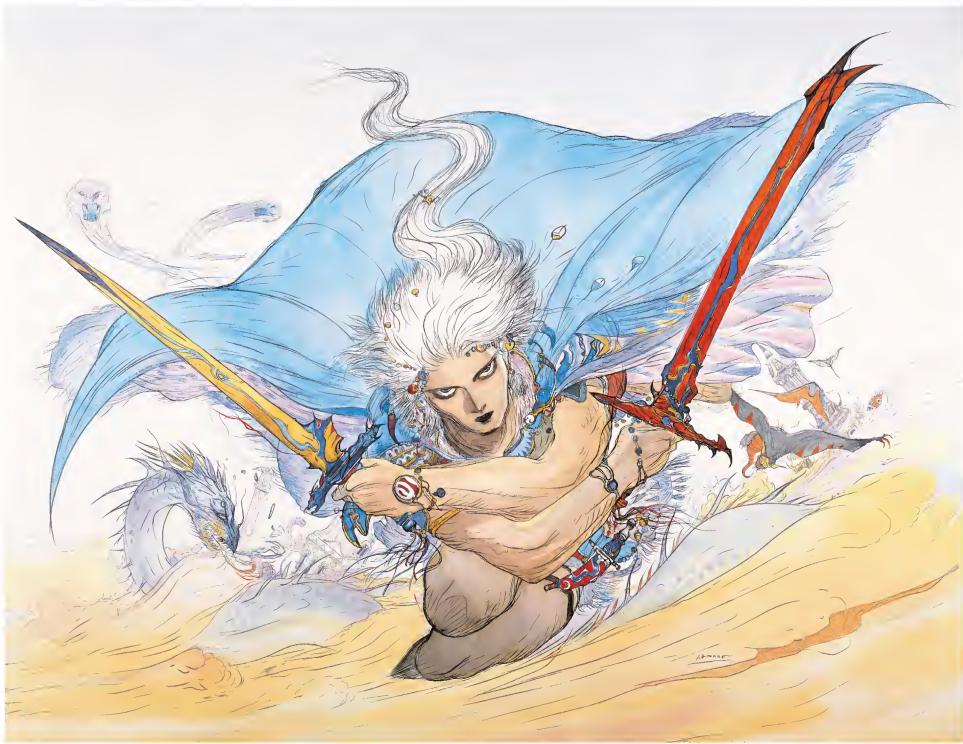
Final Fantasy IV -  
packaging  
Acryl, colored ink  
70 x 66 cm  
(190)



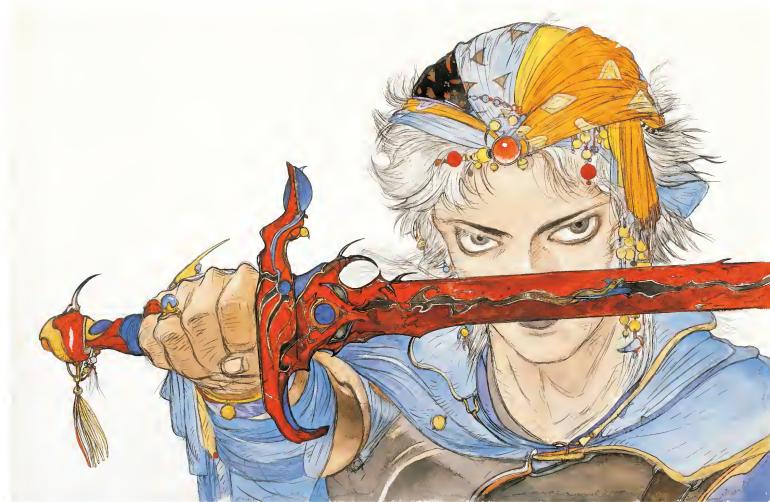
Final Fantasy VII -  
Crayonné  
Acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 600 mm  
1998



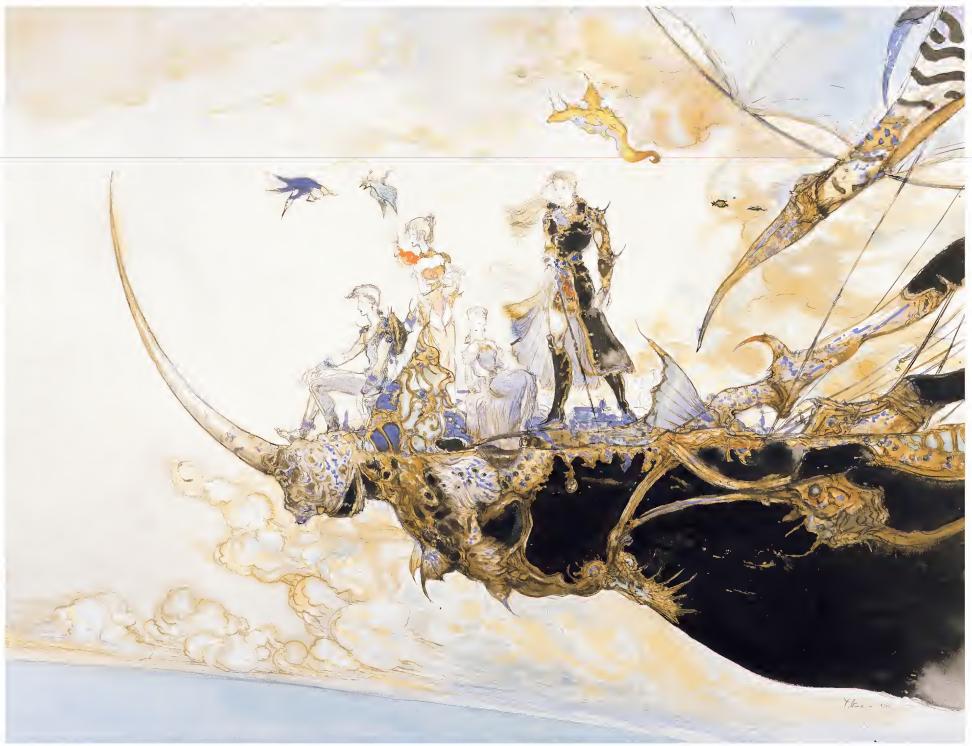
Final Fantasy II -  
Monsters  
Acrylic, colored ink  
555 x 747 mm  
2006



Final Fantasy III -  
packaging  
 acrylic, colored ink  
 60 x 70 cm  
 1994



Final Fantasy II -  
packaging  
 acrylic, colored ink  
 39 x 59 cm  
 1991



Final Fantasy V -  
The Departure  
Acrylic, colored ink  
40 x 90 cm  
1985



Final Fantasy X -  
Water Warrior  
Acrylic, colored ink, gold paint  
105 x 36 cm  
1998



## Biography and exhibitions

# Yoshitaka AMANO



1952 Born in Shizuoka, Japan

1967 Starts working for Tatsunoko Productions, where he participates in the development of characters for such animated television programs as *Gatchaman* (Battle of the Planets), *The Adventures of Hawk*, *The Hoopoe*, and *The Time Bokan*

1981 Starts working as an illustrator, his work appears in *Twilight Worlds*, a science fiction magazine published by Hiyokawa Publishing Corporation

1982 Becomes an independent illustrator, creating covers for novels and magazines

1983 Wins a Seian Award, given by the Japanese Association of Science Fiction. He will be awarded this distinction for four consecutive years

1984 Publishes *Matri* with Asahi Sonorama. Many other books collecting his work follow

1987 Creates conceptual art for the video game *Final Fantasy* produced by Square. He continues to work as a designer for the series

1989 Holds *Hites* exhibition in Tokyo

1990 Works on set and costume design for Tamasaburo Bando's production of *Nagafū* at Nessei Theater

1991 Begins to produce lithographs in Japan

1992 Produces his first stained glass for the Kikue Imura Fairy Art Museum in Fukushima, Japan

1994 Holds his first lithography exhibition, in Tokyo and Ōsaka

1995 Begins to produce lithographs for Maegle in Paris

1996 Begins to produce lithographs for the Golo Press studio in New York

1997 Creates the Greene Street Workshop studio in New York

1998 Holds *Think Like Amano* exhibit in the Uenomono Museum of Art of Tokyo. Exhibits at the International Festival of Fantastic Film in Brussels. Works on designs for 100 Nijō, the animated film that debuted at the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Conceives bronze statue for the commemoration of the Mokurei Bridge in Kanayama (Fukushima, Japan)

1999 Holds *Hero* exhibit at the Angel Orensanz Foundation in New York. *Tir Sandman: Tir Dream Hunter*, written by Nell Gaiman, is published by DC Comics

2000 *Sandman: Bone Caudatos de Sombra* is published by Interbooks in Japan, is nominated for the Hugo Award, and wins an Eisner Award. Amano also receives the Dragon Con Award and the Julie Award

2001 *Tir Sandman: Bone Caudatos de Sombra* is published by Conrad Livro in Brazil. Begins the multi-genre project *Hero*, while *Elektra & Wolverine: Tir Reloncer*, written by Greg Rucka, is published by Marvel Comics.

2002 Holds exhibits in New York, London, Paris, Lyon, and Cavalaire

2003 Holds exhibit at the Michael Iannini Gallery of Cologne. Publishes a new book edited by the Leo Koenig gallery in New York

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Photograph of Yoshitaka Amano on page 154 by Takeshi Hanzawa

Born in 1952, YOSHITAKA AMANO was hired at the age of fifteen by Tatsunoko Productions, where he was involved in character design for the animated television program *Gatchaman* (aired in America as *Battle of the Planets* and *G-Force*) among other projects. His career in publishing began with *Twilight Worlds* in 1981. In 1983 he was presented with the Seiun Award for Art, which he went on to win for three subsequent years. In 1987 he did the character design for the first Final Fantasy video game, winning him widespread acclaim. In 1990 he branched out into new artistic realms, doing stage design for Tamasaburo Bando's production of *Nayotake* and other plays, and designing a stained glass window for the Yosel Museum. In 1995, a deepening interest in art led him to begin making lithographs at a studio in Paris. In 1996, he began doing lithographs at a studio in New York and has since held solo exhibitions in galleries all over Japan. In 1997 he held his first solo exhibition in New York.



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Cover design by Heidi Fainza

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Final Fantasy Vampire Hunter D  
Alice Erotica Elric.

Explore thirty years of Yoshitaka  
Amano's incomparable imagination  
in *Worlds of Amano*.



SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...  
THIS MONSTER!"

