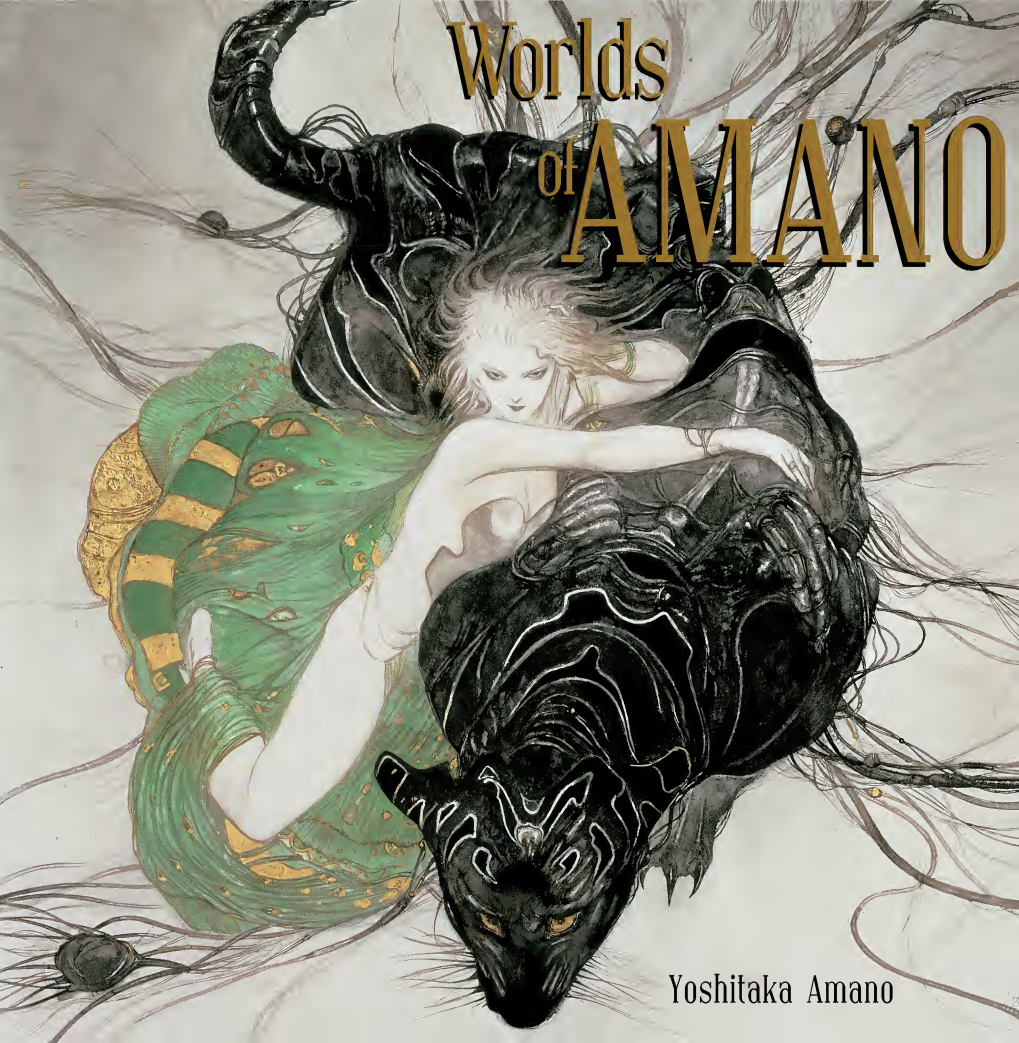


# Worlds of AMANO



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



Milwaukie



Rock Minor  
artistic: colored ink and pigment  
1400 x 1000 mm  
2010



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

# Introduction

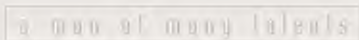
If the viewer sees the indelible influences of the great masters of Art Nouveau in the work of Amano, the viewer also discovers the influences of Disney, or one of the many heroes of Japanese animation and comics. An artist without blinders, Amano marries these artistic and aesthetic forms, using classical 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.

—JW



**Möbius/Amano**  
**The door of the worlds**

When one asks Möbius to create Amano, it is like sitting down Major Grubert and demanding that he open the magic mirror that separates the worlds of the two creators.

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





## CHAPTER I

# 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, *Maten*, 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.



Circe  
acrylic, colored ink  
300 x 500 mm  
2000



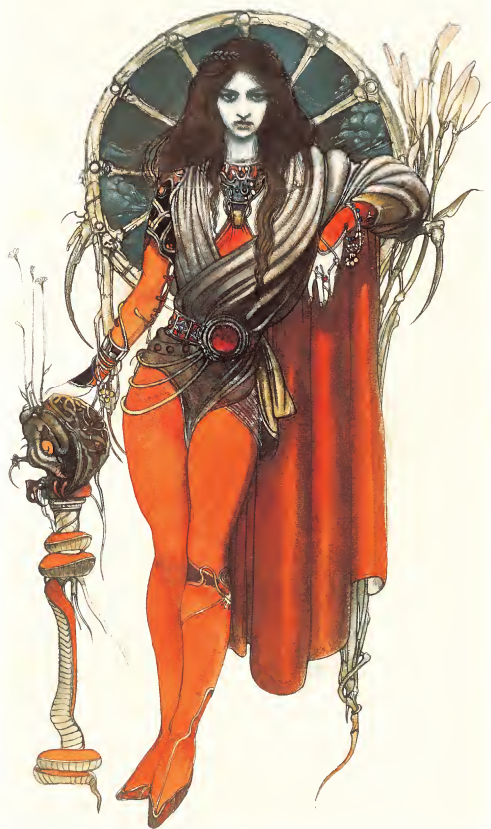
Legend: Eyes  
Acrylic, colored ink  
700 x 560 mm  
1999



Chivalrous knight  
Acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 300 mm  
2018

Counter-attack  
Acrylic, colored ink  
60 x 115 cm  
1999





Lady Warrior  
bought, colored ink  
6.5 x 23 mm  
1988



White Moon Night  
acrylic, colored ink  
730 x 452 mm  
1986



Japan III  
acrylic, color of ink  
1200 x 1,000 mm



Yagyu - Ninuocha  
Iside, colored ink  
700 x 505 mm  
1980



Toygar 'Nimpocho'  
Acrylic, colored ink  
70 x 50 cm  
1988



Kasperau - 'limpecho  
tragic, colored ink  
80 x 565 mm  
1988

Niango • Chanchiquea  
Acrylic, color of ink  
700 x 900 mm  
1988





Alice Erotica -  
Shoes and Ornamental Hairpin  
Acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 700 mm  
©2010

Konoichi Yungochi  
Acrylic, colored ink  
700 x 500 mm  
©2010

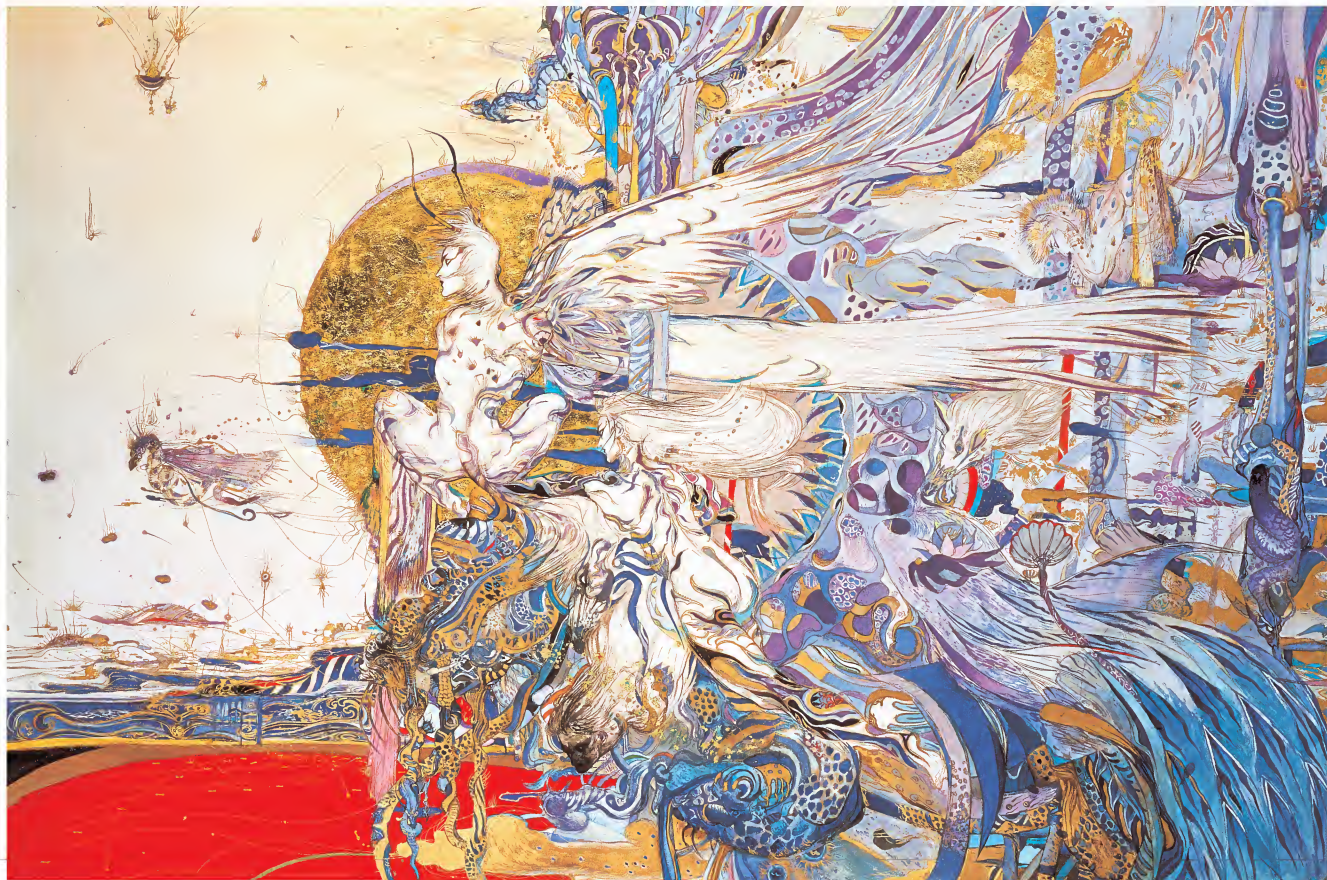




Edo - Kinsuicho  
Acrylic, colored ink  
180 x 145 cm  
1980



Alice Erotica - Fascination  
Acrylic, colored ink  
700 x 500 mm  
1988



18 - Eros  
Acrylic, colored ink, gold pigment, gold leaf  
800 x 1200 mm  
2006



Kia - Teo  
Acrylic, colored ink, gold pigment, gold leaf  
750 x 1000 mm  
1991



图 - 陈  
 Acrylic, colored ink, gold pigment, gold leaf  
 100 x 120 cm  
 1998

Concert  
acrylic, colored ink  
180 x 70 cm  
2006





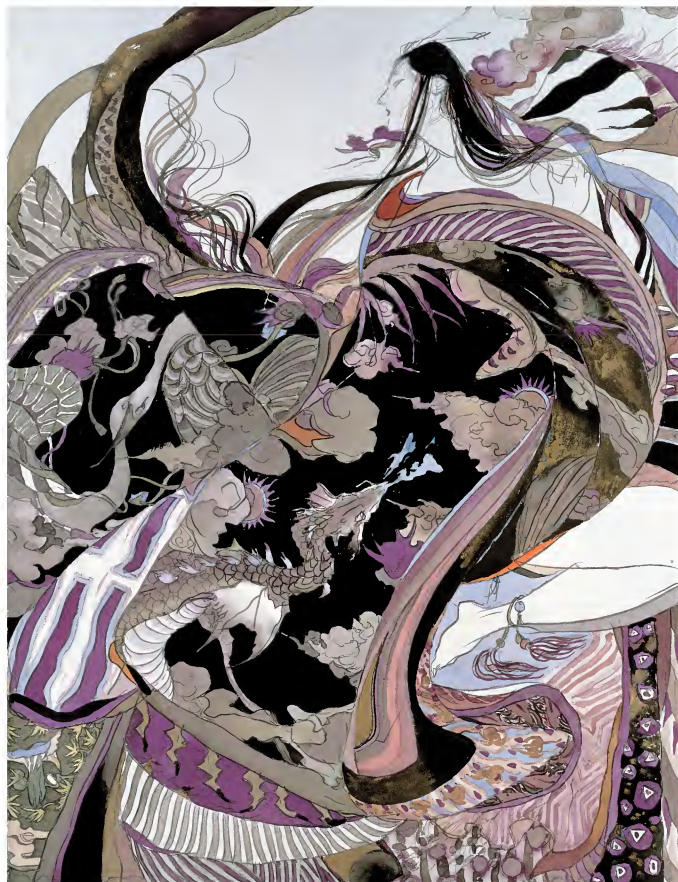
## CHAPTER II

# The eroticism of The Tale of Genji

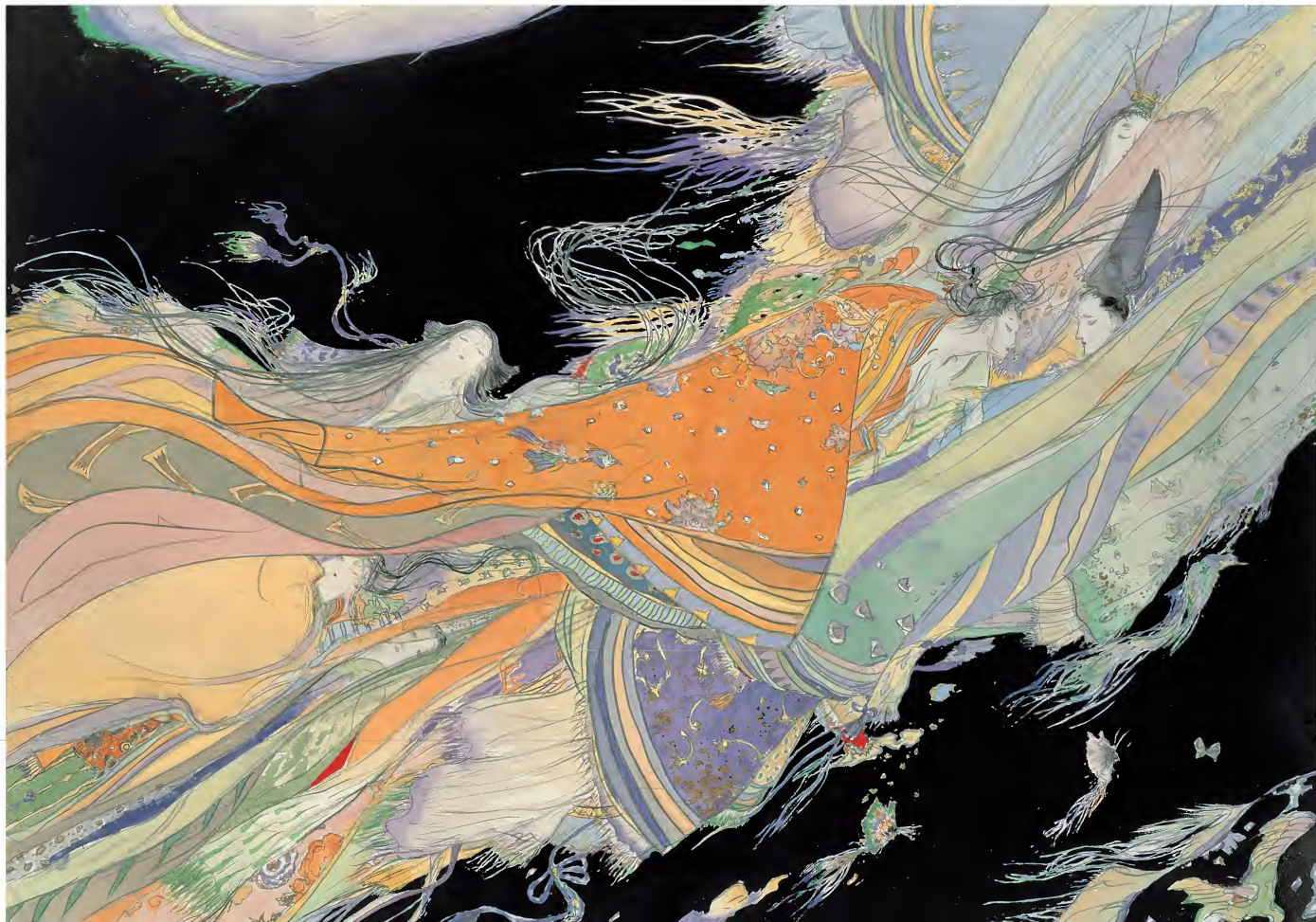
*The Tale of Genji* is considered the oldest literary work in Japanese prose. It was written at the beginning of the eleventh century by Murasaki Shikibu, a widowed member of the imperial court. In the fifty-four published volumes of the story, Shikibu recounts the adventures of Hikaru Genji, an intelligent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



kizuki, colored ink  
 5.0 x 32 cm  
 1960



acrylic, colored ink  
 100 x 100 cm  
 1999



Acrylic, colored ink  
57.5 x 73.0 cm  
1999



large, colored ink  
— 50 x 100 cm —  
(1981)

large, colored ink  
90 x 104 cm  
(1982)





Acrylic, colored ink  
160 x 90 cm  
1991



Acrylic, colored ink  
50 x 33 cm  
1991



## 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  
 Acrylic, colored ink, gold pigment  
 820 x 1100 mm  
 2009





**PRINCE**  
 Acrylic, colored ink, gold pigment  
 910 x 627 mm  
 2006

A Voice  
 acrylic, colored ink, gold pigment  
 70 1/2 x 50 1/2 in.  
 1998





Graeme Solitary  
 acrylic, colored ink, gold pigment  
 900 x 600 mm  
 2006



Princess  
Acrylic, colored ink, gold pigment  
910 x 827 mm  
1989



## 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.



Chimera - Son  
Acrylic, colored ink  
110 x 145 cm  
1993



Chimera  
Acrylic, colored ink  
145 x 500 cm  
1993



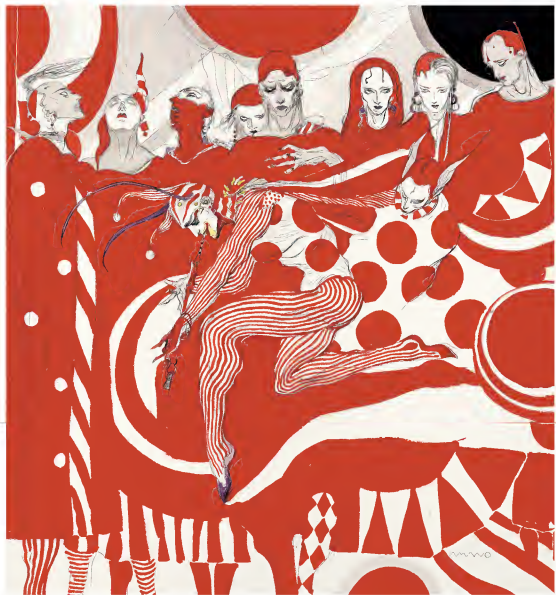
Lovely Flower  
Acrylic, colored ink  
562 x 386 mm  
1993



## 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.



Red Rings  
acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 300 mm  
1980



I'm the Man of Twenty Faces  
acrylic, colored ink  
450 x 300 mm  
1980



The Golden Panther  
acrylic, colored ink  
450 x 300 mm  
1980



The Sorcerer  
Acrylic, colored ink  
200 x 200 mm  
1987



## CHAPTER VI

# Shishi-0

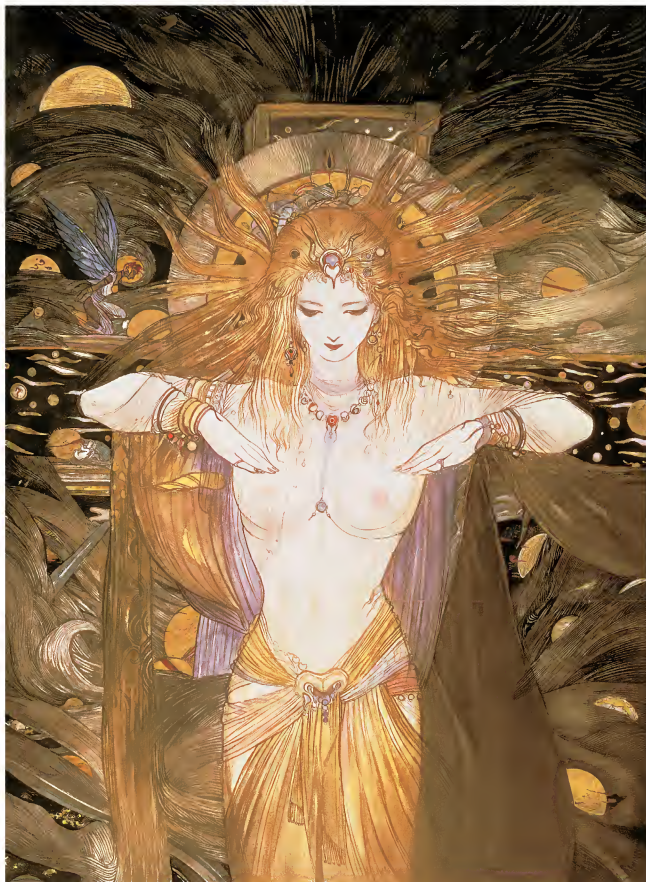
Between 1985 and 1992, Amano was commissioned by the literary magazine *Shishi-O* to illustrate some of the magazine's covers. With his signature style, Amano captured the sensations of the seasons, as well as the social trends of the time.



Isamu Akashi - Albino Warrior  
Acrylic, colored ink  
70in x 50in  
2008



Animal  
Acrylic, colored ink  
750 x 500 mm  
(2009)



Dreams of the Goddess  
 Acrylic, colored ink  
 80 x 145 cm  
 2011

Marec 1  
Acrylic, colored ink  
700 x 500 mm  
2008





Kwon Ahn Twinkle  
Acrylic, colored ink, gold pigment  
254 x 361 cm  
2007



Koon Abolt - *Midnight Sun*  
Acrylic, colored ink  
78 x 56 1/2 in  
1998



Jean Sarraceni  
Acrylic, colored ink  
700 x 500 mm  
1980

Icon Sorcerer : Sarina in the Light  
 acrylic, colored ink  
 70 x 50 cm  
 2010





Isaac Albot - Fruit of Paradise  
Acrylic, colored ink  
150 x 160 cm  
2011

Icon Altai - Red & Black  
 acrylic, colored ink  
 700 x 500 mm  
 1980





## 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  
acrylic, colored ink  
302 x 344 mm  
1993

Determination  
Acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 300 mm  
2000





Altamuse  
Acrylic, colored ink  
510 x 370 mm  
2007



Rattle  
Indian ink  
300 x 230 mm  
1990



In the Wind  
Indian ink  
300 x 230 mm  
1990



Fighting with Burkaess  
 Indian ink  
 297 x 63 mm  
 1980



Dragon Head  
 Indian ink  
 217 x 146 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.



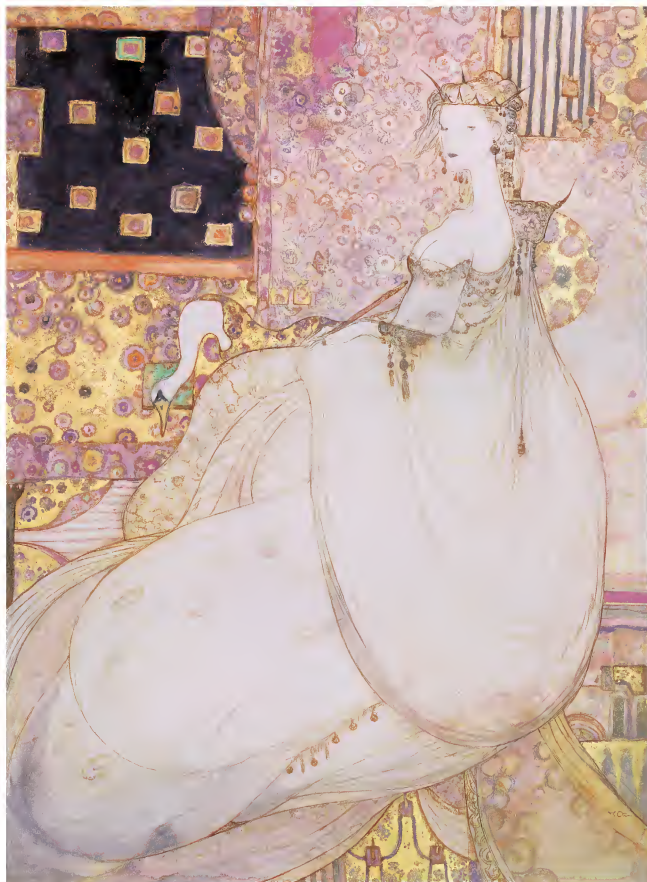
Lancelot  
Acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 380 mm  
2010



Brownie  
Acrylic, colored ink  
50 x 30 cm  
1999



Babelrol  
Acrylic, colored ink  
51x71 cm 2005  
© 2005



Swan Maidens  
Acrylic, colored ink, gold pigment, gold leaf  
70in x 54in  
2006



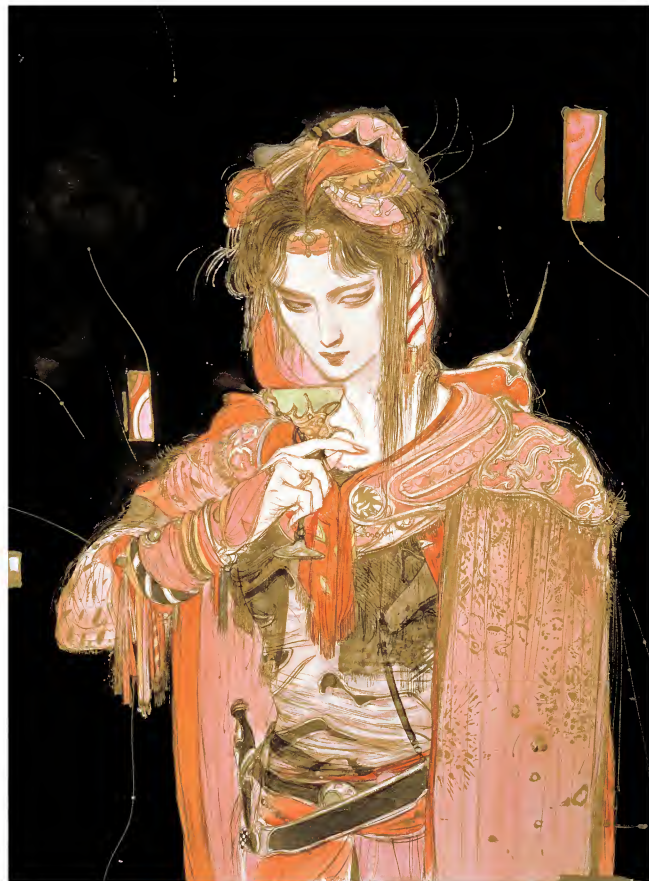
Tifania  
Acrylic, colored ink  
90 x 65 cm  
2007



## CHAPTER IX

# The chronicles of Arslan

In the heroic fantasy novel by Yoshiaki 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.



Pool of Sweat and Blood  
acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 380 mm  
2007

Peqazee's Dream I  
acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 700 mm  
2007





Pequias' Dream II  
Acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 350 mm  
2010

The Banner Waves  
Acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 357 mm  
2010





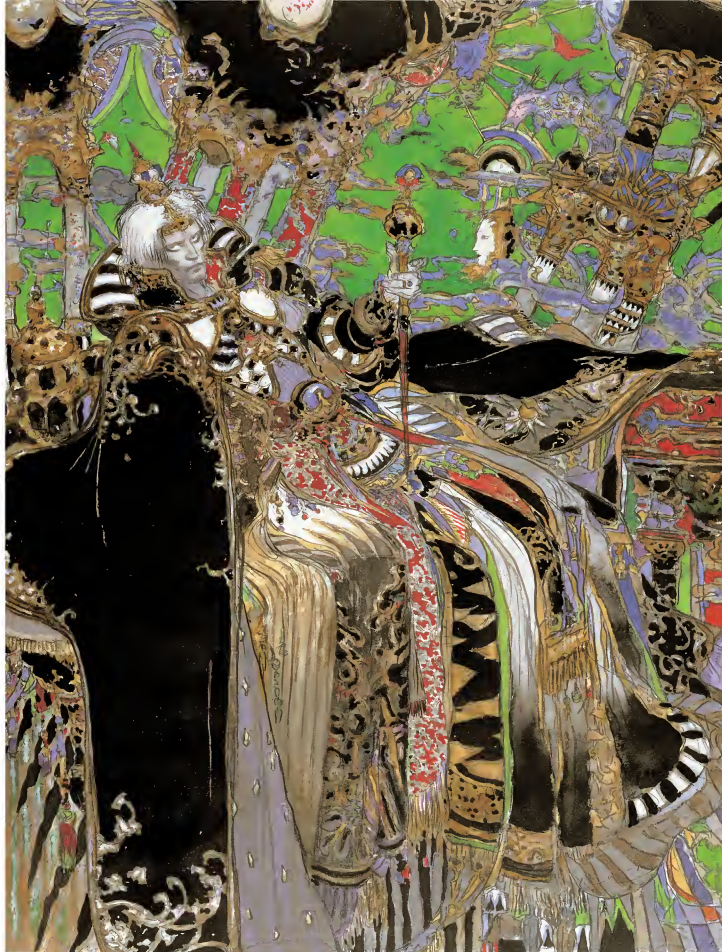
## CHAPTER X

# 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.



Wild  
India 90  
710 x 560 mm  
2000



The Lesnue Locus  
 Aydin, colored ink  
 60 x 50 cm  
 2007



Jannus' Juppelle  
acrylic, colored ink  
100 x 100 cm  
2006

The Slave  
acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 370 mm  
1988





The Black Blaze  
Kyril; colored ink  
70 x 505 mm  
1997

Devil the Doomsdaymaker  
 acrylic, colored ink  
 500 x 405 mm  
 1986





The Prince of Scarlet  
acrylic, oil on silk  
55 x 25 cm  
2007

A Guidogost  
lithograph  
100 x 400 mm  
2004





## 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 *caché*. 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  
510 x 380 mm  
2000

Encounter  
Acrylic, colored ink  
64 x 52 cm  
2001





D  
Xorpic, colored ink  
500 x 380 mm  
2011



With the Wind  
Kuroki, colored ink  
540 x 357 mm  
1999



Joker  
Acrylic, colored ink  
587 x 481 mm  
2020

Princess Rose  
acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 300 mm  
1980





A Dream on the Moon  
acrylic, colored ink  
515 x 383 mm  
2008



North Sea Navigator  
Acrylic, colored ink  
504 x 375 mm  
1999



A Knight by Moonlight  
 acrylic, colored ink  
 102 x 160 cm  
 2010

To Drossa  
Acrylic, colored ink  
565 x 380 mm  
2000





Warrior with his Twin Shadows  
acrylic, colored ink  
500 x 300 mm  
2000

Flowers Blooming  
Acrylic, colored ink  
762 x 540 mm  
2008





Buster  
acrylic, colored ink  
800 x 1075 mm  
2002



An Affair  
acrylic, colored ink  
540 x 370 mm  
1995



Stranger  
Xingyu, colored ink  
561 x 382 mm  
2010

Nocturne  
 Jurkic, colored ink  
 50 x 38 cm  
 1999





Blink  
Acrylic, colored ink  
541 x 400 mm  
2010

8165  
 acrylic, colored ink  
 515 x 345 mm  
 2003





D - Nocturne  
Indian ink  
231 x 341 mm  
1980



D - Nocturne  
Indian ink  
438 x 341 mm  
1980



Vampire Hunter D - Ink Sketch  
Ink on ink  
211 x 438 mm  
1981



D - Fallen Angel  
Ink on ink  
438 x 211 mm  
1981



## CHAPTER XII

# 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.



Final Fantasy I - Ochu  
acrylic, colored ink  
35 x 45 cm  
1981

Final Fantasy I - The Lucier  
acrylic, colored ink  
50 x 85 cm  
1981





Final Fantasy I -  
Bahamuth  
Acrylic, colored ink  
200 x 200 mm  
1987



Final Fantasy II -  
Main Characters  
Acrylic, colored ink  
200 x 200 mm  
1987



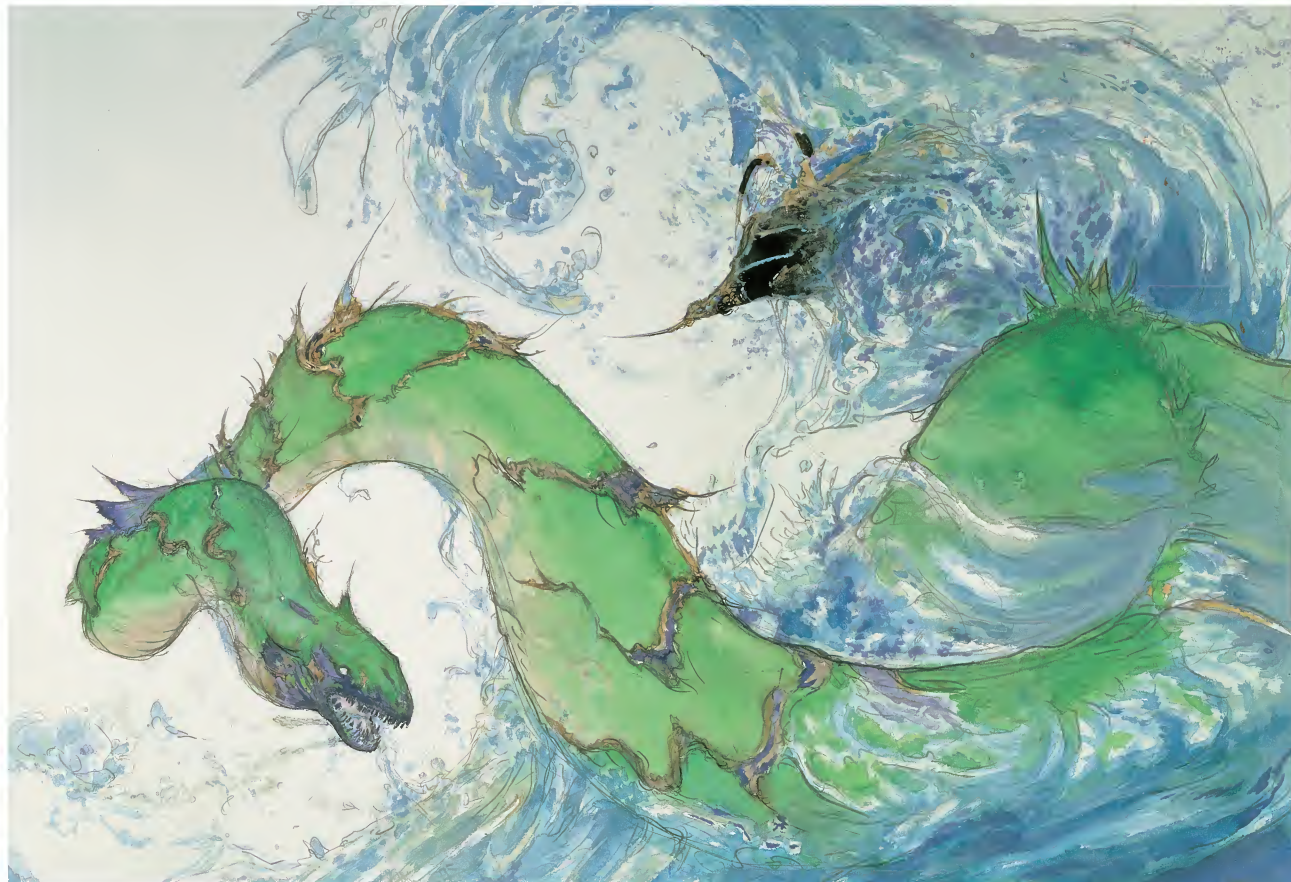
Final Fantasy III  
Image Sketch  
Acrylic, colored ink  
485 x 345 mm  
1985



Final Fantasy IV -  
The Bloop  
Acrylic, colored ink  
550 x 247 mm  
2000



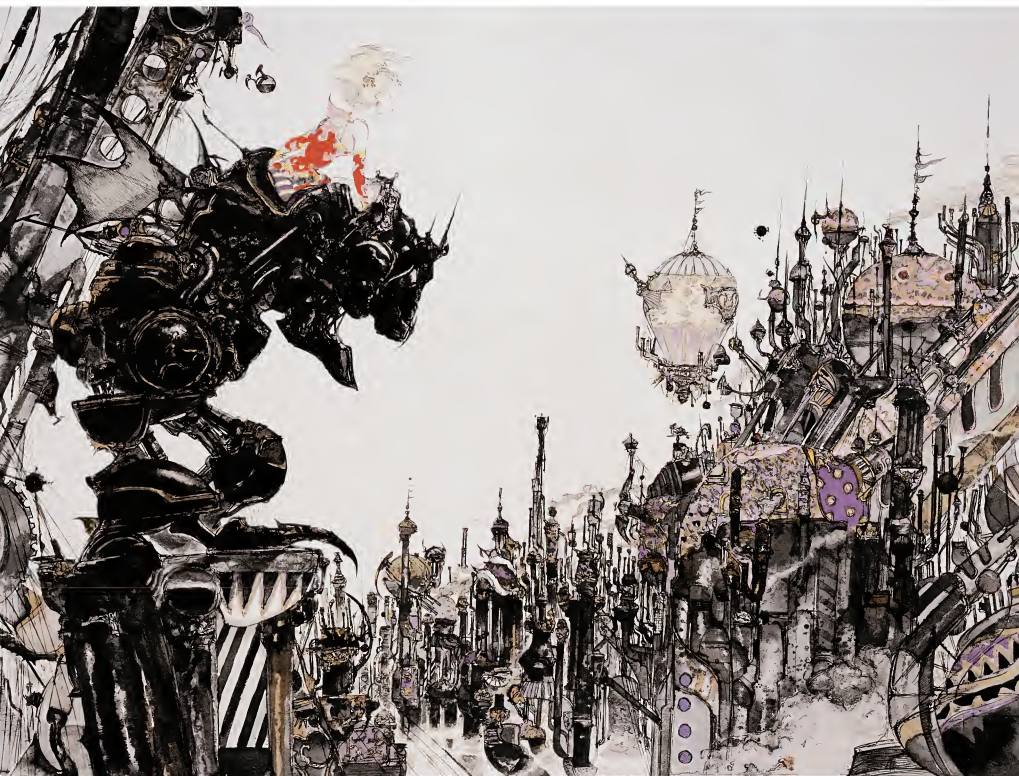
Final Fantasy VII -  
Armor  
Lithograph  
750 x 500 mm  
2001



Final Fantasy V -  
Sylph  
Artwork, colored ink  
100 x 140 mm  
1992



Final Fantasy V -  
Castle in the Sky  
acrylic, oil on silk  
375 x 757 mm  
1992



Final Fantasy XI -  
The City  
Acrylic, colored ink  
9.9 x 9.9 cm  
2001



Final Fantasy VII -  
A Blink  
Silicone  
180 x 180 mm  
2010

Final Fantasy VII -  
Wallfing  
Silicone  
182 x 180 mm  
2010





Final Fantasy VII -  
Calmness  
38x50cm  
150 x 200 mm  
(2001)

Final Fantasy VII -  
The Master  
38x50cm  
150 x 200 mm  
(2001)





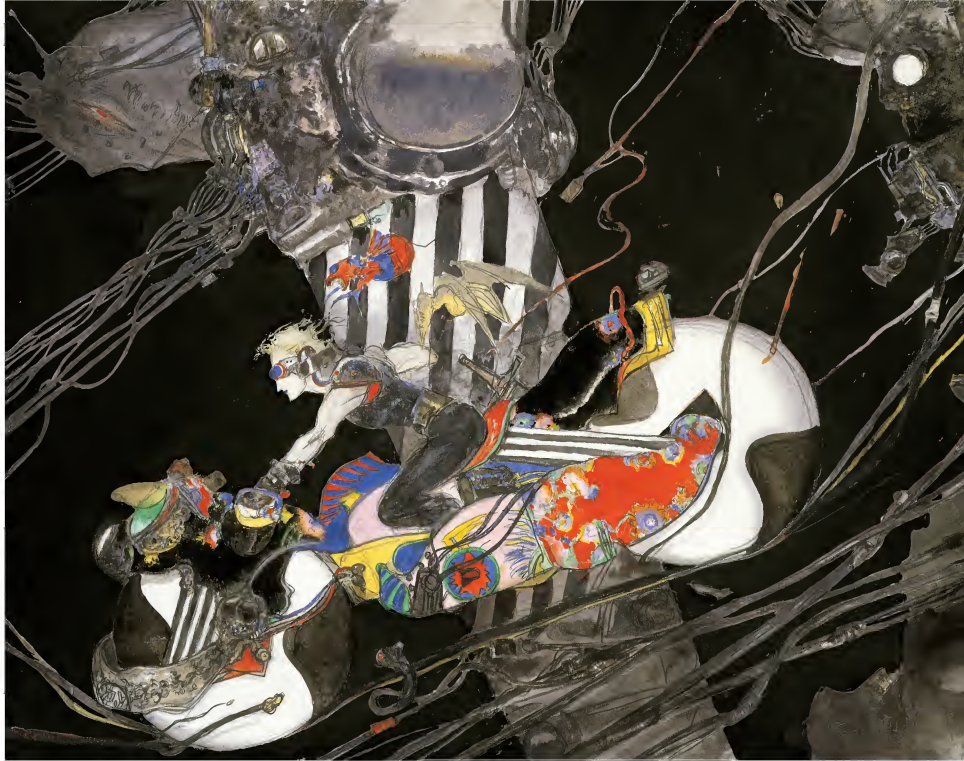
Final Fantasy VII -  
The Challenge  
Shiroma  
891 x 627 mm  
1993



Final Fantasy VII -  
Building over with Force  
Shiroma  
728 x 573 mm  
1993



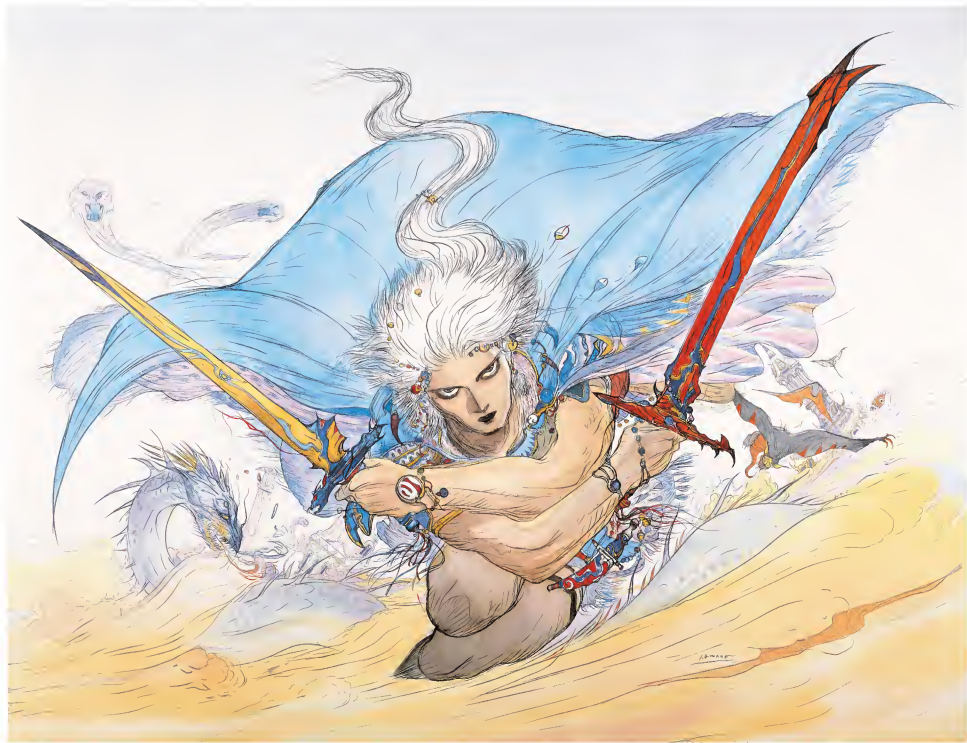
Final Fantasy IV -  
Jack-o'-lantern  
Acrylic, colored ink  
788 x 565 mm  
1993



Final Fantasy VII -  
Crapshot  
kayle, colored ink  
500 x 600 mm  
1999



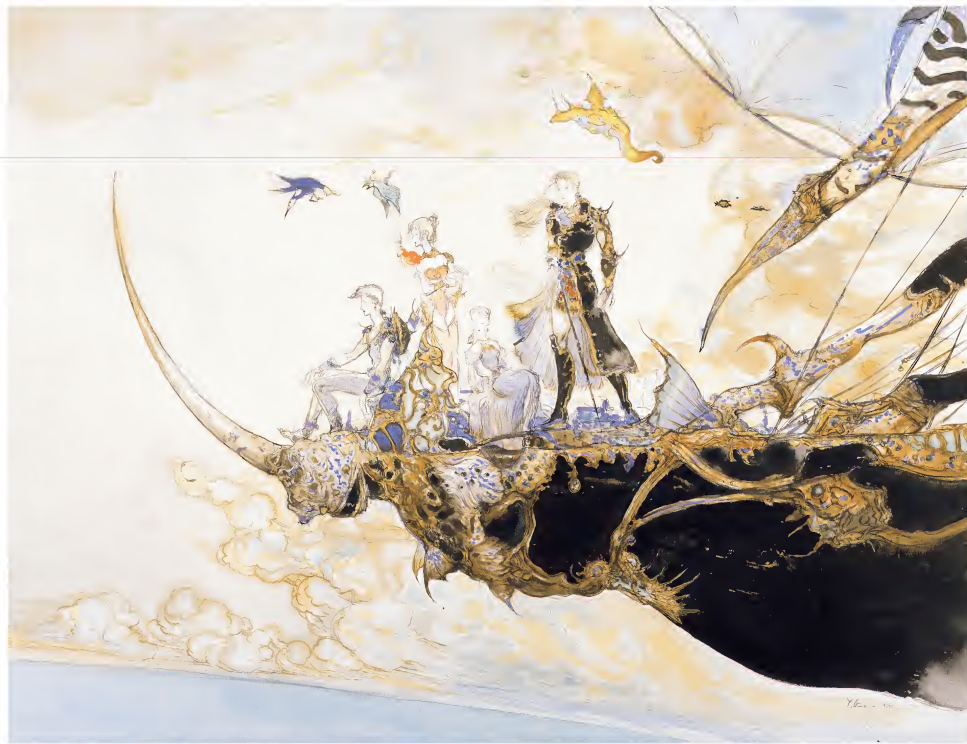
Final Fantasy II -  
Monsters  
Acrylic, colored ink  
505 x 747 mm  
2001



Final Fantasy III -  
packaging  
Acrylic, colored ink  
565 x 768 mm  
1990



Final Fantasy II -  
packaging  
Acrylic, colored ink  
378 x 579 mm  
1991



Final Fantasy V -  
The Departure  
Acrylic colored ink  
420 x 610 mm  
(1992)

Final Fantasy V -  
Water Warrior  
Acrylic colored ink, gold pigment  
725 x 565 mm  
(1992)





# 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 *Gaikingan* (*Battle of the Planets*), *The Adventures of Hattchi*, *The Hounddog*, and *The Time Bell*
- 1981 Starts working as an illustrator, his work appears in *Twilight World*, a science fiction magazine published by Hayakawa Publishing Corporation
- 1982 Becomes an independent illustrator, creating covers for novels and magazines
- 1983 Wins a Seun Award, given by the Japanese Association of Science Fiction. He will be awarded this distinction for four consecutive years
- 1984 Publishes *Matrix* 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 Hiten exhibition in Tokyo
- 1990 Works on set and costume design for Yamashiro Bando's production of *Nagafake* at Nesei Theater
- 1991 Begins to produce lithographs in Japan
- 1992 Produces his first stained glass for the Kiriko Inura Fairy Art Museum in Fukushima, Japan
- 1994 Holds his first lithography exhibition, in Tokyo and Osaka
- 1995 Begins to produce lithographs for Maeght in Paris
- 1996 Begins to produce lithographs for the Solo Press studio in New York
- 1997 Creates the Greene Street Workshop studio in New York
- 1998 Holds *Think Like Amano* exhibit in the Ueno Museum of Art of Tokyo. Exhibits at the International Festival of Fantastic Film in Brussels. Works on designs for *1001 Nights*, the animated film that debuted at the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Conceive bronze statue for the commemoration of the Mokuai Bridge in Kanayama (Fukushima, Japan)
- 1999 Holds Hero exhibit at the Angel Orensanz Foundation in New York. *The Sandman: The Dream Hunters*, written by Neil Gaiman, is published by DC Comics
- 2000 *Sandman: The Dream Hunters* 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 *The Sandman: Bites Cauders de Sinfos* is published by Conrad Livio in Brazil. Begins the multi-genre project *Hero*, while *Elfabra & Wolverine: The Rolemaster*, 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 Janssen 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 Yosei 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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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!"

