

Veronika Baškirjova

Estonian Mythology Character Design

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Summary

This work is a small but powerful part of my comic book project. Creating my own world of science fiction is a long-term process, so with this work, I lay a foundation from which I will start to push in the future. Since I take inspiration from Estonian mythology, I studied the mythological background of the selected characters from folklore studies. The information collected from folklore creates the basis for the design process, and the designer remembers that by being inspired by national culture, they influence said culture. Realizing that I could inadvertently perpetuate harmful stereotypes in my designs, I paid attention to my stereotypical thinking in the design process. Analyzing other people's design projects inspired by national art and mythology, I drew the corresponding conclusions for my work. In my designs, I use visual language that is understandable to the general audience and also a sign system with deeper meanings resulting from folklore. During my research, I discovered that there is more material and sources about Estonian national art and folklore than the initial expectations. The finding of the material is inspiring, but too voluminous for this work, so part of the research for the follow-up project on the material remains.

As a result of my research, I created the concept art of four mythological characters, which includes character illustrations, views, sketches, and patterns. I started with black and white sketches and continued adding details and colors. Then I dealt with front and back views of the characters, creating patterns, and finally with emotion-transmitting illustrations that place the characters in the environment. I am satisfied with the final result and plan to continue with the same form of future investigations.