

The Art of Pepper & Carrot



DAVID REVOY

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Pepper & Carrot




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Artworks, desktop publishing and text:

David Revoy

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All Free/Libre and open-source software because Pepper&Carrot episodes are created using 100% Free/Libre software on a GNU/Linux operating system. The main one used in production being:

- Krita for artworks (krita.org).
- Inkscape for vector and speechbubbles (inkscape.org).
- Blender for artworks and video editing (blender.org).
- Kdenlive for video editing (kdenlive.org).
- Scribus for the book project (scribus.net).
- Gmic for filters and effects (gmic.eu).
- Imagemagick & Bash for 90% of automation on the project.

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... and anyone I've missed.

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The beginnings: one year before creating Pepper&Carrot (2013) appears in my artworks a first drawing of a witch and her cat.



Above: Cartoony characters were rare on my sketchbook before Pepper&Carrot but I found back this one. She is a little blacksmith with a cat. Pepper inherited a lot from this character previous development.



Above: a random sketch of a tiny witch found on my sketchbook one month before posting the first episode of Pepper&Carrot. She is looking already like Pepper.



Above: Mai 2014, just after posting the first episode where I designed the character on the fly, I started to draw Pepper and Carrot on my sketchbook.



Above: one of the first colored illustration of Pepper made before posting episode 2. The project was still named "Mini Fantasy Theatre" at that time and published on my blog. Why this name? Probably to post stories about other characters I had in stock and not only around the little witch and her cat.



Above: Pencil study for the house of Pepper and Komona market (under). The two drawings will be reused as it is for the first panels of episode 2 and episode 3.



Under: After episode 2, I found a name for them and announced I'll start a series of episodes with them. This logo was the opportunity to reveal also their names of the characters.



Under: A bit more of dynamism with the angular hat and goofyness for the design of Pepper on episode 3.

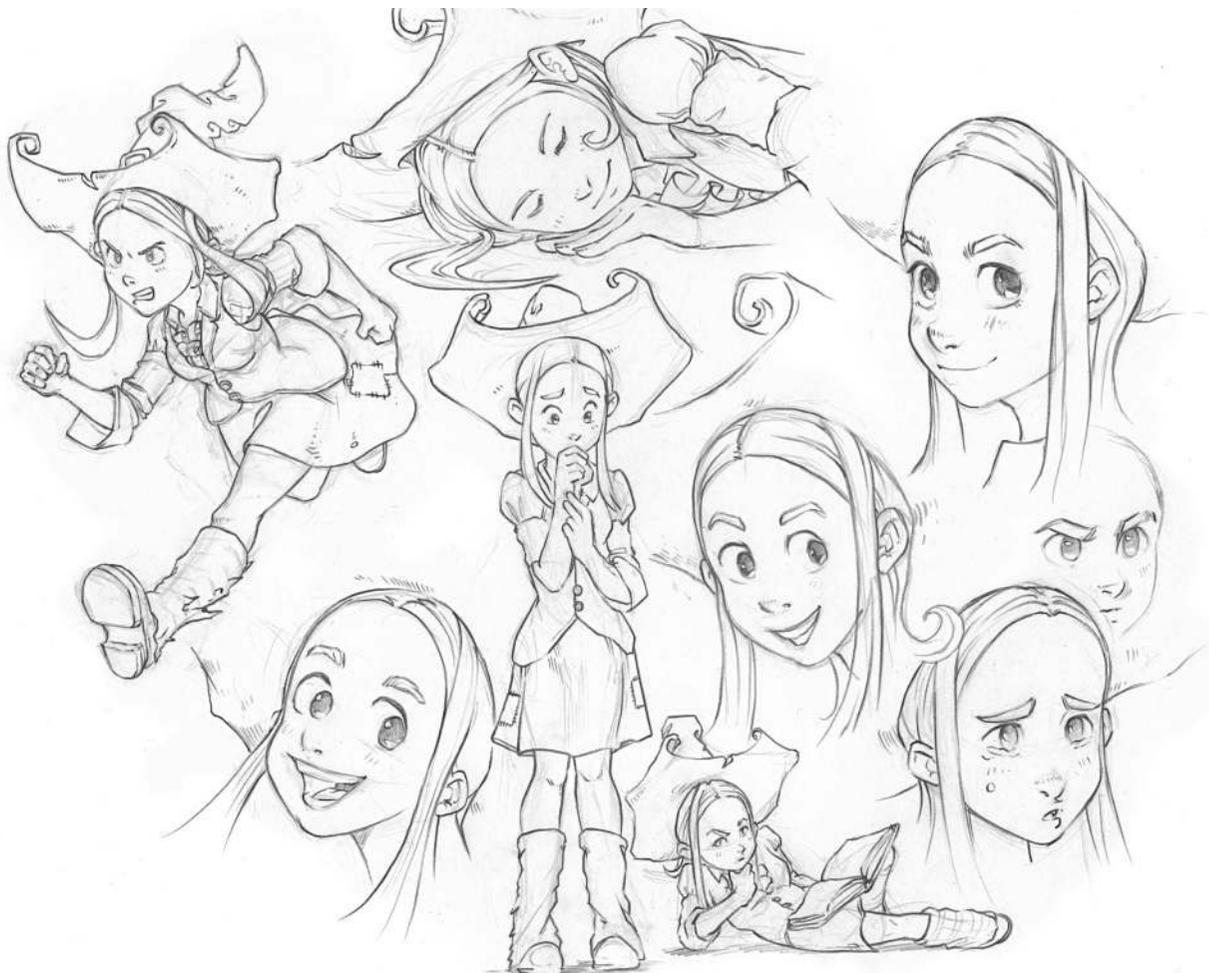


Under: The speedpainting I made on Sunday, May 4th 2014 and then I used it as the first panel for Pepper&Carrot episode 1.





Above: on start 2015 the project moved from my blog to a dedicated website www.peppercarrot.com. At this time I also decided to design the base stone of the translation system to host back all the translation I started to see published in the wild. Then I added a philosophy pages to explain my project. This illustration for the header of this new website homepage captures perfectly the energy I felt at this moment.

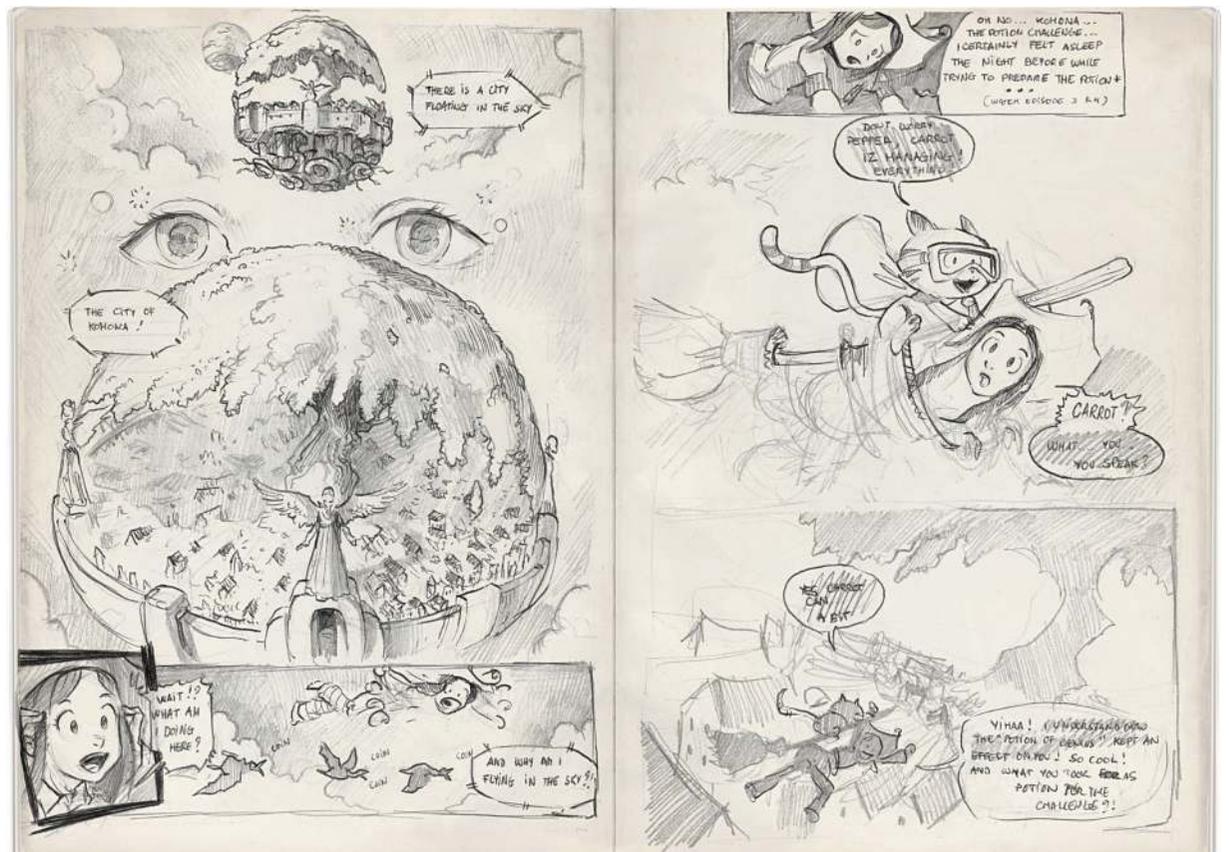




Above:
The first doodling to find the two new friends of Pepper for episode 6: Shichimi and Coriander.

Left:
More researches and the curly hat and haircut of Pepper was born. It was ready for episode 5: Special holiday.

Right:
First storyboard about episode 6: The Potion contest.





Various character design for Shichimi, Saffron and Coriander between episode 6: The Potion Challenge and episode 9: The Remedy.

Shichimi was supposed at first to have albinism. That's why she has white hair and red eyes on the early concept-art above.

I changed this design after reading more about this congenital disorder and the constrain it would have on storytelling about the necessary protection to sunburn. She kept pink eyes and her hair became bright blond after.





Above: a rejected drawing for the first panel of an episode starting at spring time.

Under: an illustration Read The Friendly Manual to update the header of the website.



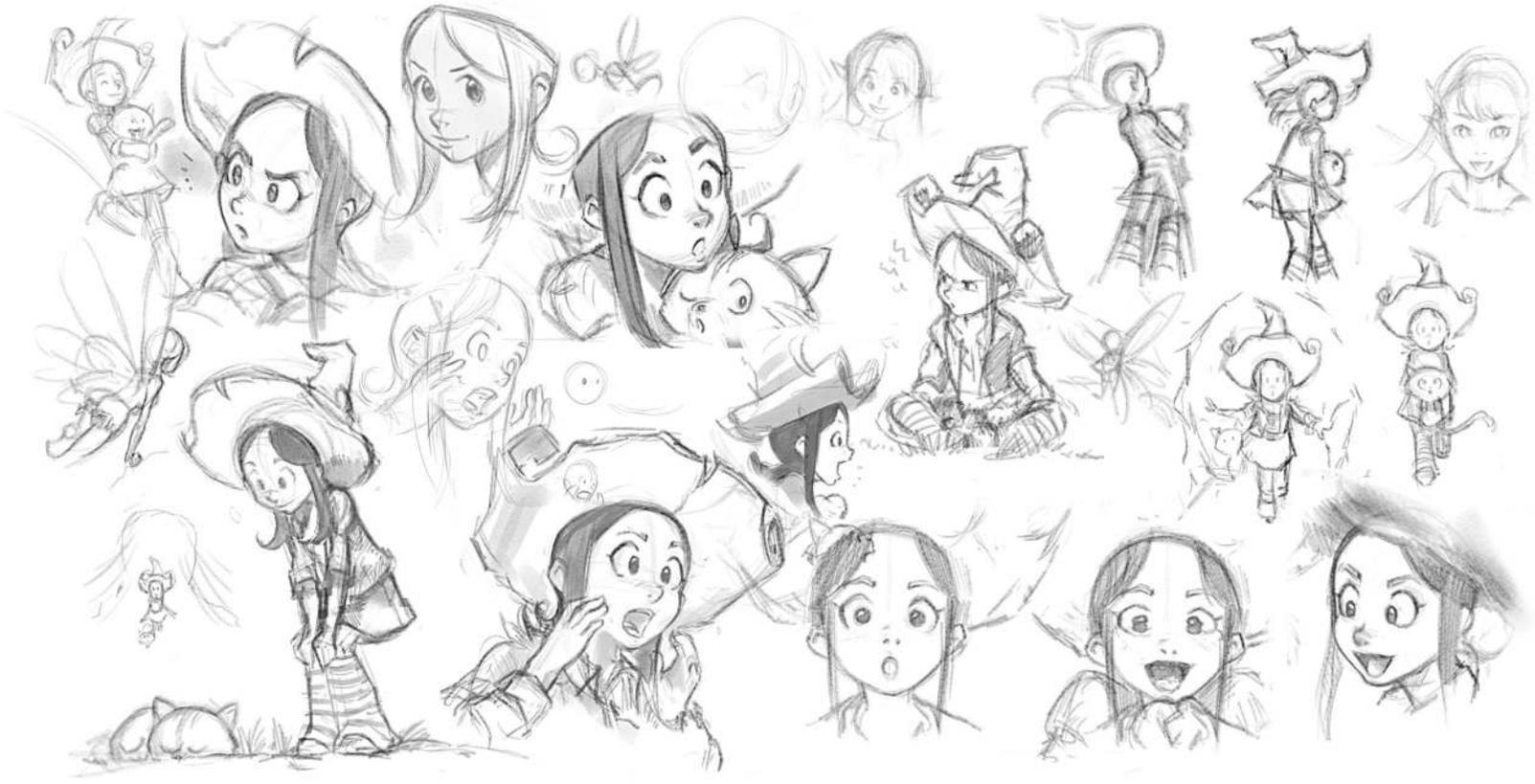


Above: study for Episode 9: The remedy with the "security system" of Pepper.



Above: design for a bathing suit, episode 10: Summer Special.

Under: sketches for episode 7: The Wish.



The Magic Schools



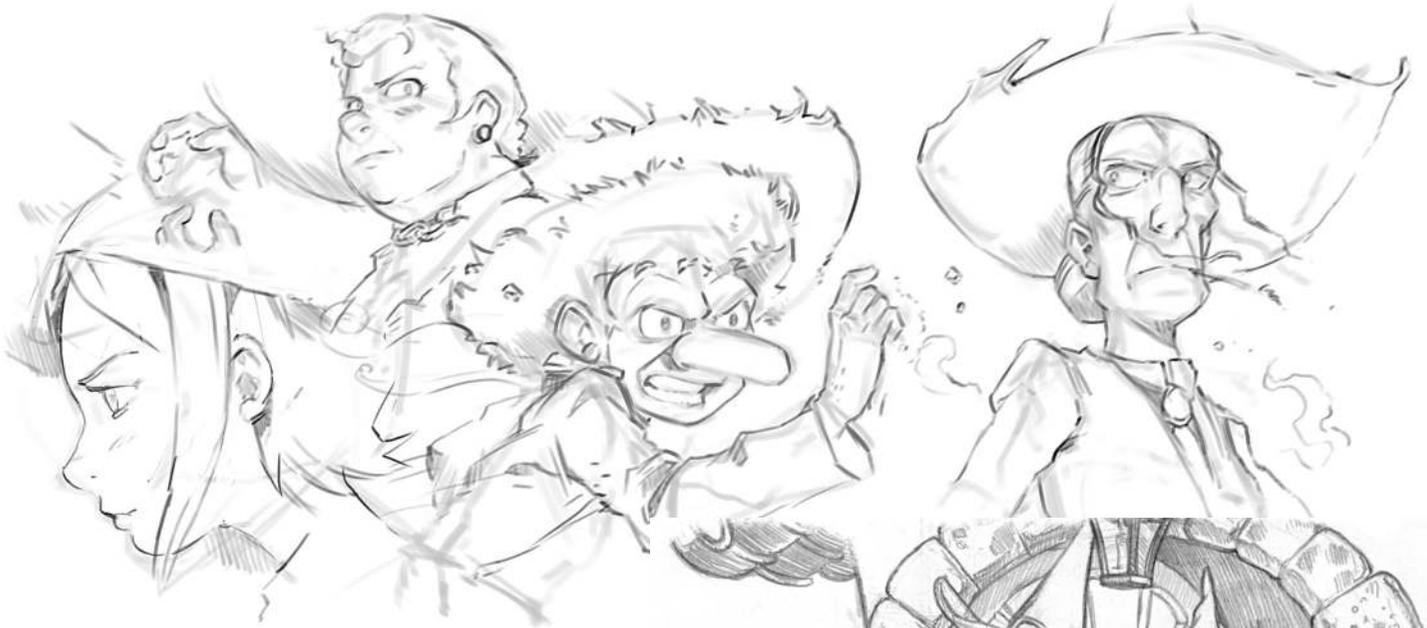
After episode six released on the new website, I published a Wiki with information about the world of Pepper & Carrot; Hereva. I started to detail a bit my ideas around the magic system at that time and illustrated it with the "Impossible triangle" (above) showing the six school of magic.



Pepper, Thym, Cayenne, Cumin and Chicory.
The witches of Chaosah



*Above: Chicory, the founder of Chaosah summoning her first
black hole accidentally.*

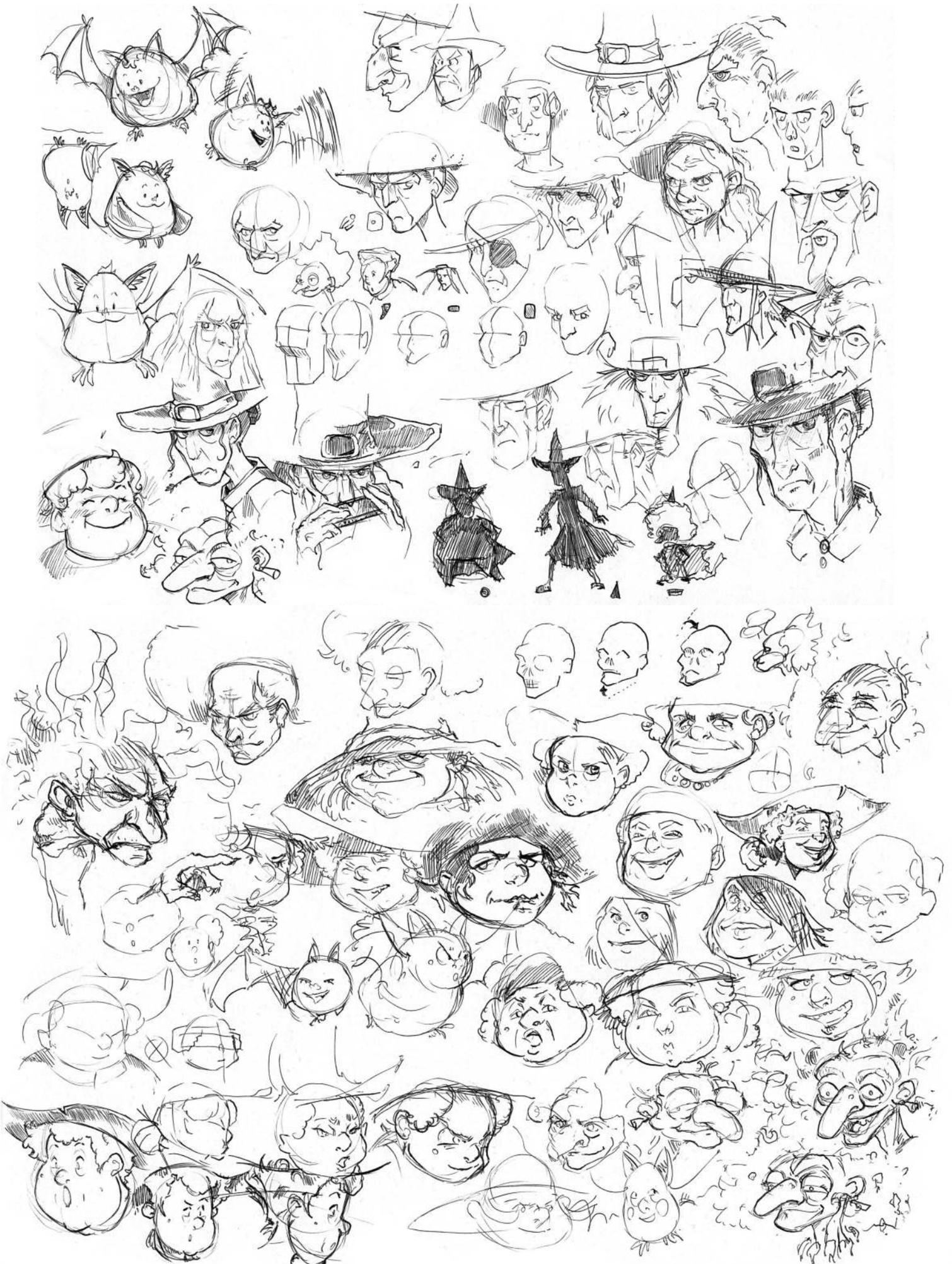


At episode 11: The Witches of Chaosab, the series took an important turn. Three characters entered the story, the godmothers witch of Pepper: Thym (on top middle), Cayenne (on top left) and Cumin (on top right).

Then I immediately explored the relation Pepper had with each witches. Episode 12 is confrontational with the black hole and Cayenne. Episode 14 shows how Cumin teach ingredients to Pepper and Episode 15 reveal surprises about the activities of the leader, Thym.

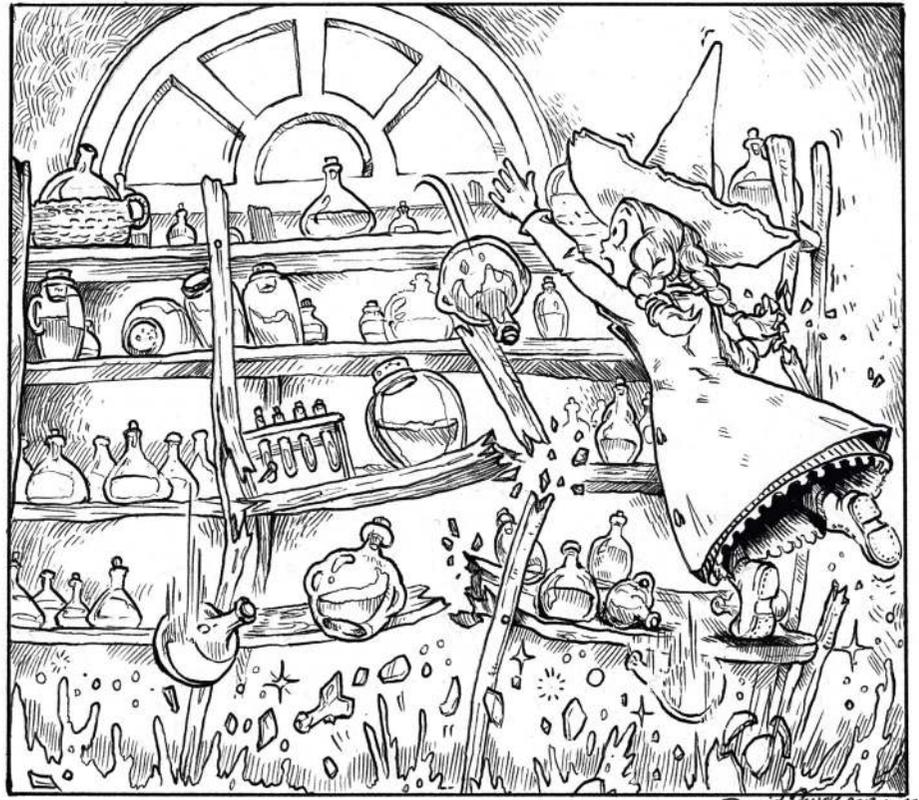
Pepper realises on episode 17 (on right, preparatory drawing for the final hug) she has learned a lot with them. The reader will have to wait episode 25 to realise the true power of the three witches when they rebuild the demolished house with a collaborative butterfly effect.







Above: sketches of Chicory and young Thym, maybe for a future episode with a flashback on the early days of Chaosah.



Above: the first rules of Chaosah: "A true witch of Chaosah doesn't climb the potion shelves". This illustration show what happened to the first apprentice of Chicory who tried to do that before vanishing into the unknown due to the effect of the potions.

Opposite page: doodles for the creation of the godmothers of Chaosah.

On right: I wanted the three old witches to be very original to the series: Cayenne the strict tall one is inspired by Clint Eastwood while Cumin is the ideal representation of the generous and happy grandmother (as seen in France on the marketing visuals of coffee brands, yogurts and jams). Thym, the old leader, a very short and very old mystic witch with a lot of libido.

I tried a lot of ideas and made a lot of researches to find my own witches. It was very hard, because I'm a big fan of Terry Pratchett and his excellent trio of old witches from the Discworld saga printed my brain deeply.





Saffron
The witch of Magmah



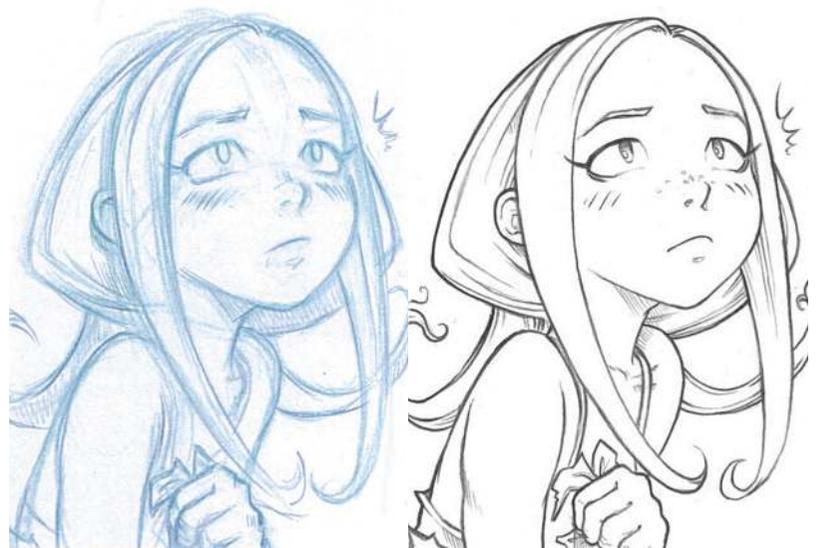


Saffron is the second witch appearing into the series after Pepper, right at Episode 3 during the scene of the market in Kōmona. She is very talented, rich, popular and she quickly became a celebrities within the world of Pepper&Carrot.

Above: a preparatory sketch of Saffron before the magic contest.

On left: a colored illustration of Saffron for the blog, showing evolution for her haircut and clothes.

Right: blue drawing for a panel and line-art rendering from a panel in the Magic Contest (Episode 22).

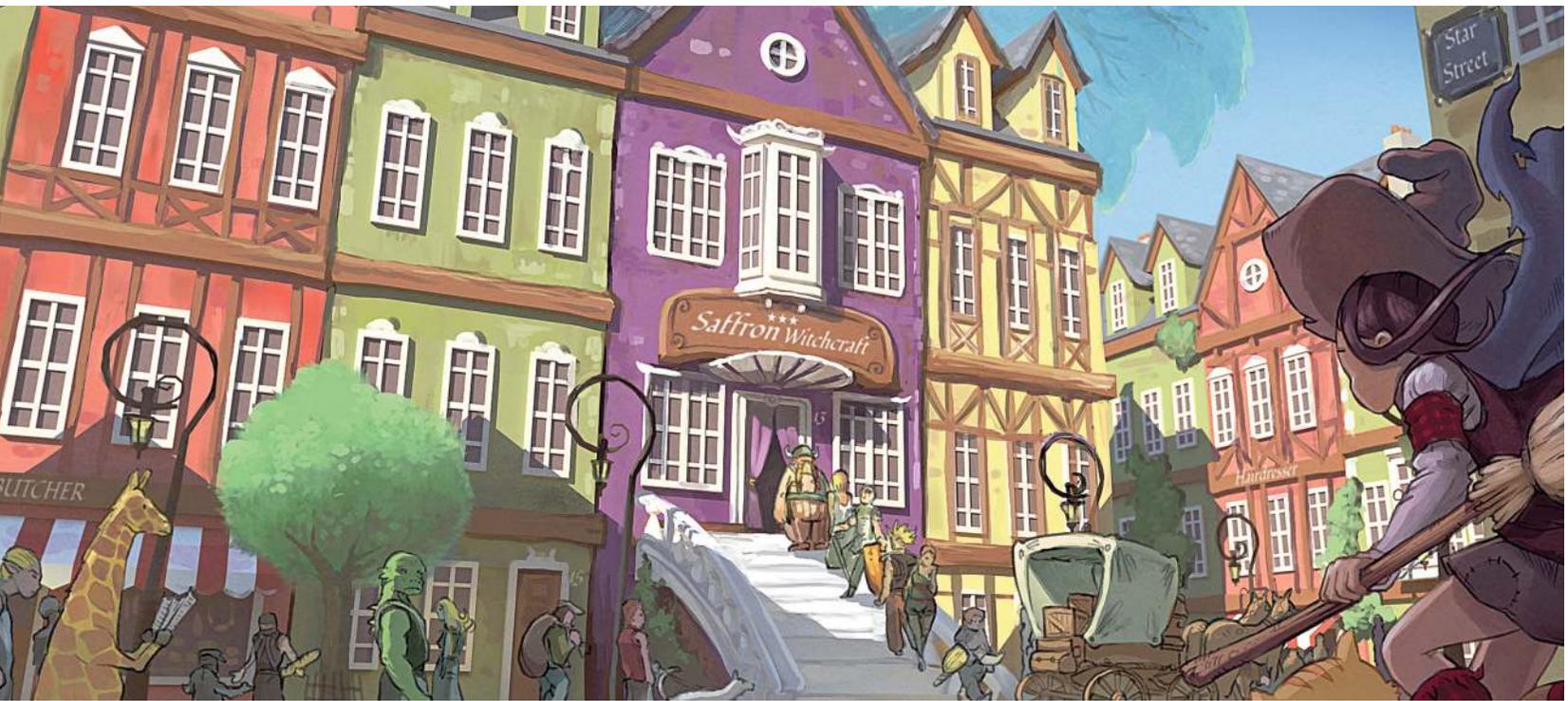




Left: drawings for Saffron on episode 16

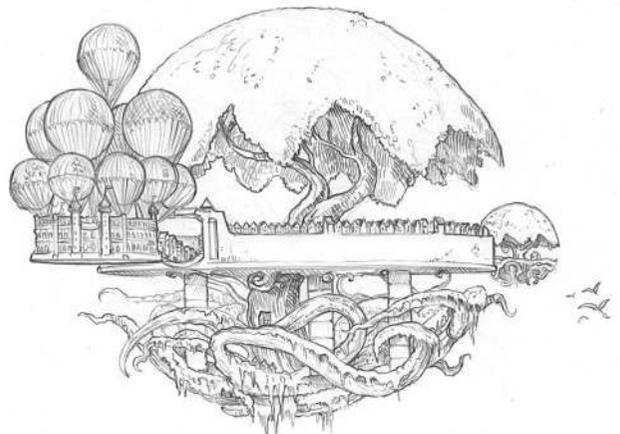
Under: Saffron doing contraband of potions to local warrior visiting Komona.





Above: panel of episode 16 showing the business of Saffron, elevating witchcraft as a popular commercial service.

Right: Saffron lives in the flying city of Komona. Preparatory pencil drawing for the episode 22.



Under: a compilation of studies of poses and acting for Saffron.



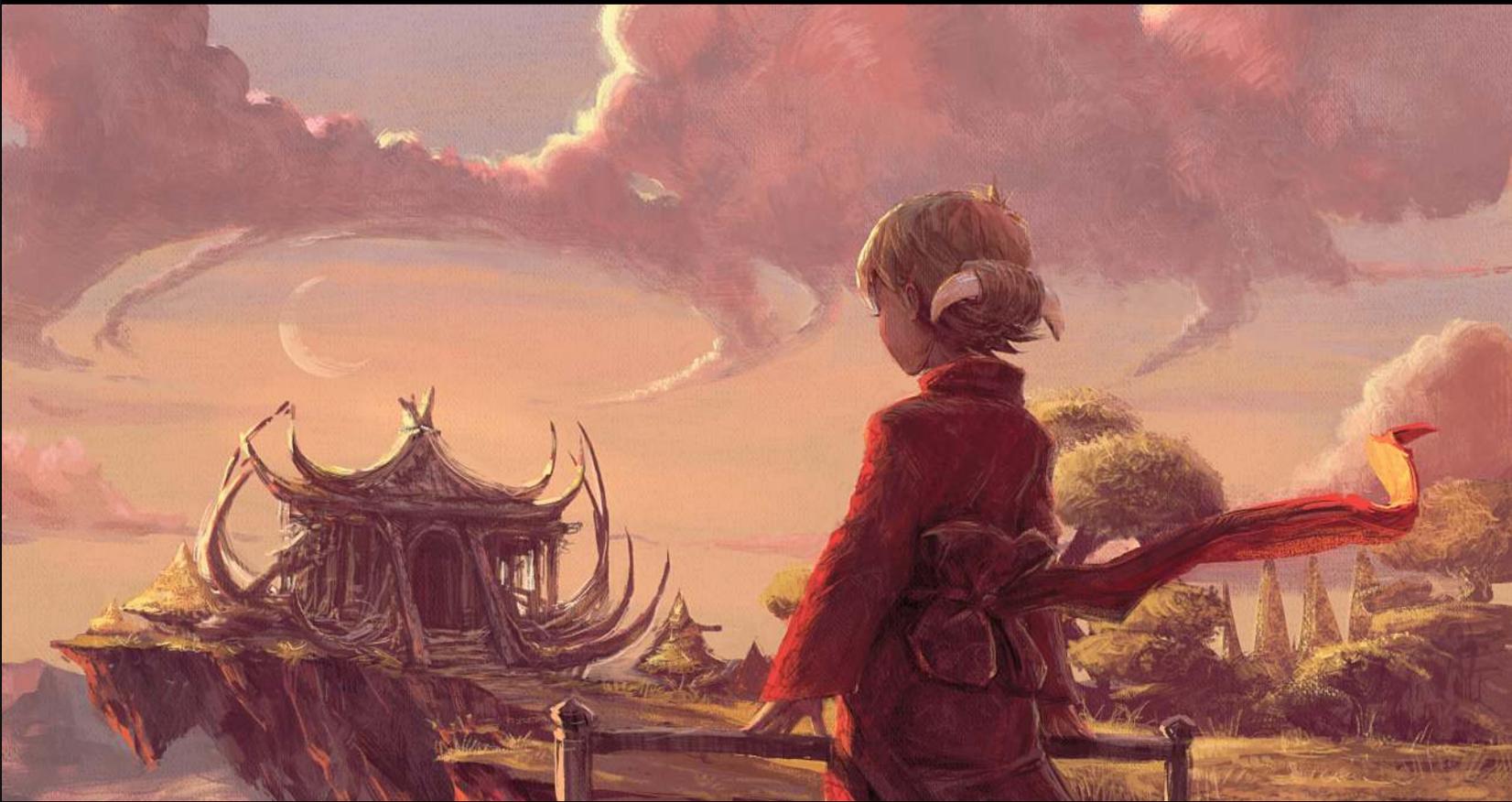


Shichimi

The witch of Ah



Above: Shichimi's magic -Ah- allows her to communicate with ghosts and spirits. She probably receives here a special advice from a gentle spirit appearing in the vapors of her tea cup.

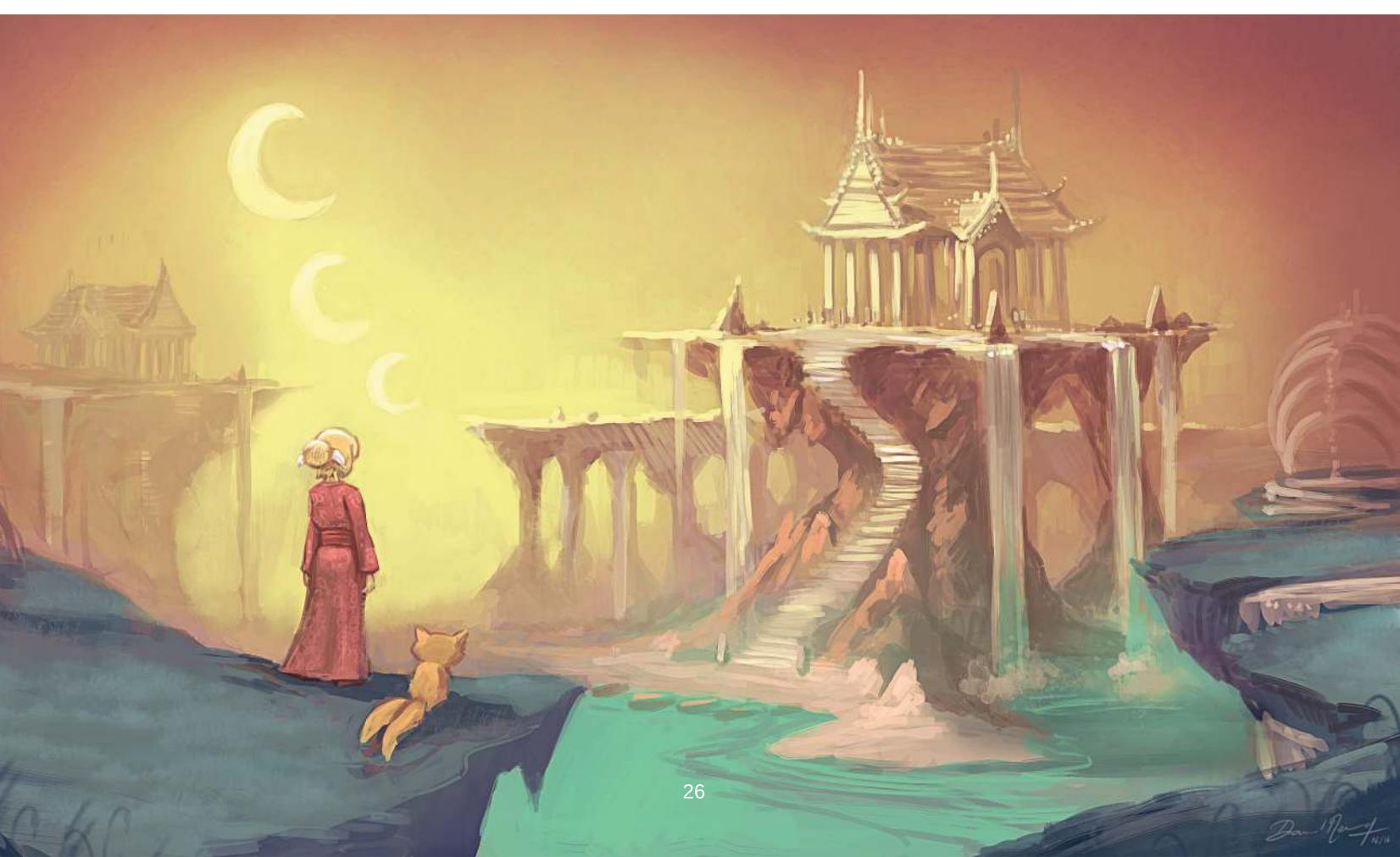


Above: Shichimi in front of a small temple of Ah made of bones of dragons.

Left: a lighting color study.

Under: Portrait of Shichimi.





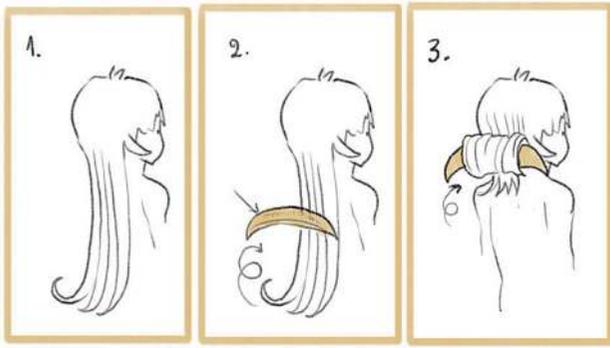
26

Above: first depiction of the land of Ah made during a painting video livestream, 2016.

Left: Shichimi is a very shy character.

Under: first panel on episode 6 where Shichimi appears, sketch and color palette researches.





Above: no, Shichimi doesn't have horns. She rolls her long hairs around a large hair-pin made of the bone of a dragon. This is a tradition for the witch of Ah.

Right: Compilation of sketches with Shichimi.

Under: a panel from a comic page that was never published and used only as a demo for the long xh30 tutorial "A Comic page from A to Z" but featuring Shichimi talking to a dragon.





Coriander

The witch of Zombiah



Above: Qualicity, the city of Coriander, first panel of Episode 27.

Right: character design of Coriander in her workshop with Mango in her hands versus Coriander as a queen with the crown of Qualicity.

Under: details of a painting in the bedroom of Coriander on Episode 13 showing the baby young Coriander queen with baby Mango.

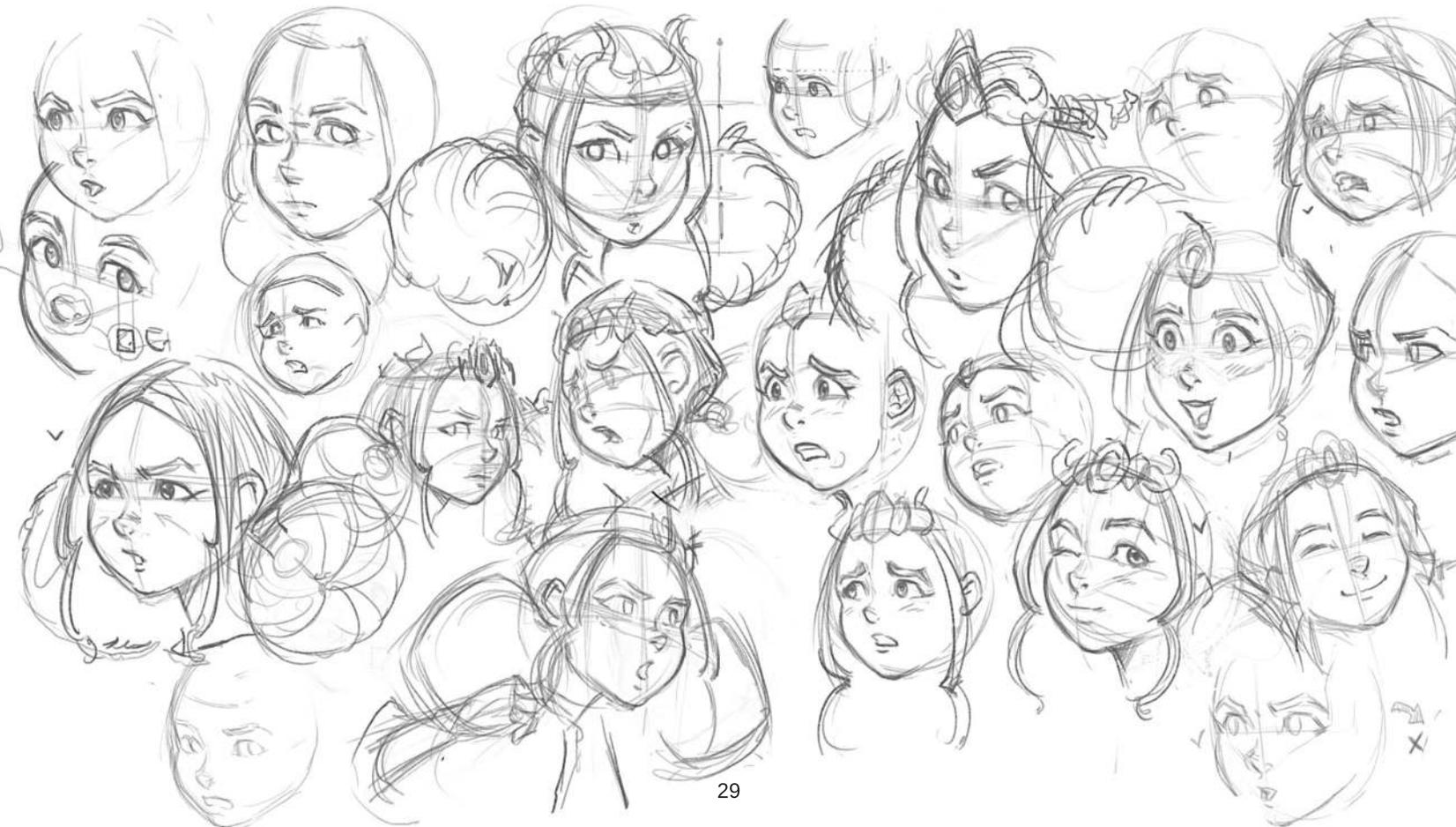
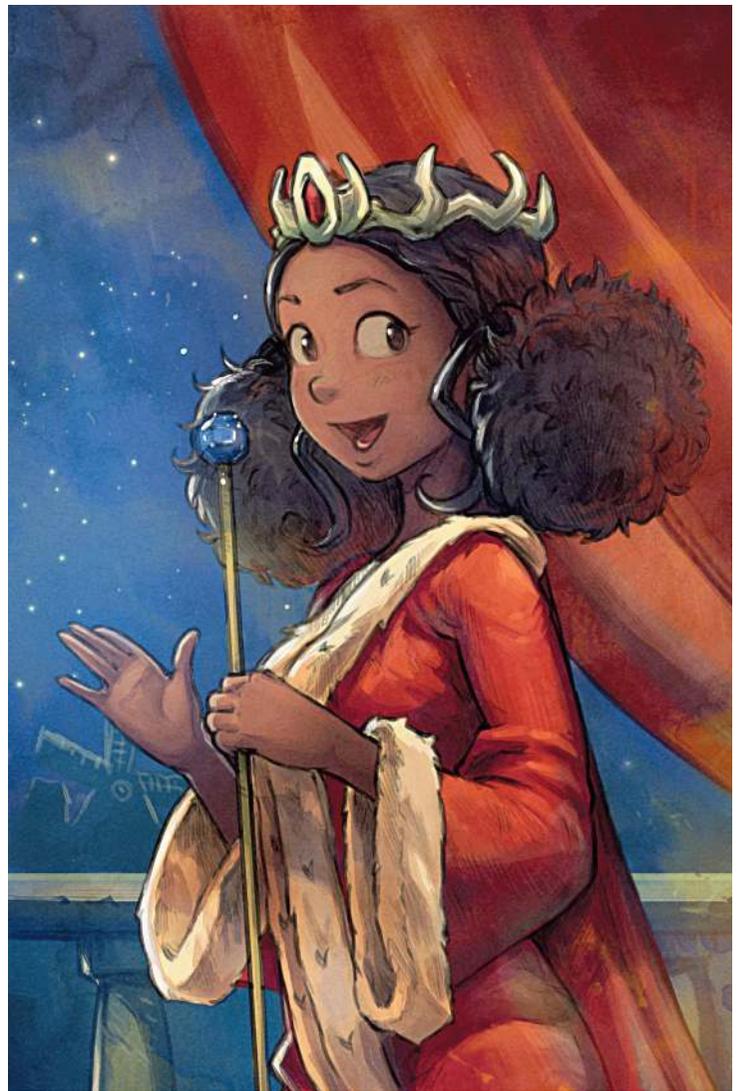




Above: pencil drawing for the spell of Coriander during the Magic Contest.

Right: character design for the coronation of Coriander with a crown that looks a bit more 'Zombiah'.

Under: Expression sheet and researches for Coriander.

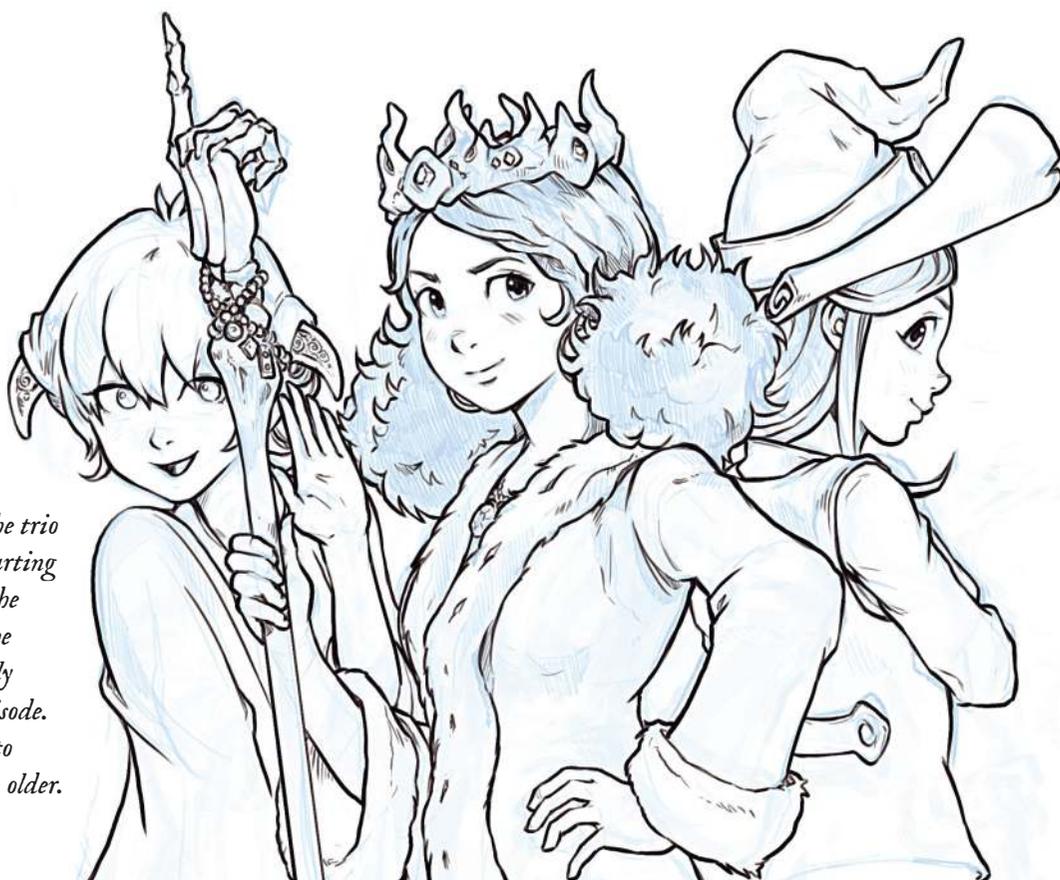




Above: Coriander in her workshop, repairing a big robot she made. I had this idea of a Princess-Geek since her first appearance on the potion contest. This drawing from 2017 was a way to wait until I reached the first episode of the Coronation published one year later.



Above: the workshop of Coriander, a concept-art that became a panel in Episode 27: Coriander's Invention.



Right: design for the trio of friends before starting the production of the Coronation arc. The character get slightly older before this episode. It was a challenge to learn to draw them older.



Camomile, Cinnamon and Quassia

The witch of Hippiah



Above: the flashback panel scene from episode 18 with Quassia, the teacher, reviewing the spell of Cinnamon (on left and Camomile on right. Camomile is the only witch half-human half-raccoon. Cinnamon is an elfe with red hair.

Left: Studies for a Hippiah building that never get used into the webcomic.

Under: portrait of grown-up Cinnamon, I wanted her to act during the coronation arc, but I had to cut the sequence for time-budget reasons.





Above: study of Pepper during her first years as a witch of Hippiah.

Right: a portrait of Camomile playing with a swarm of fairies. She really has a special connection with nature.



Under: concept-art pencil drawing for the school of Hippiah: a school farm in perfect symbiosis with the environment around.





Spirulina

The witch of Aquah



Above: character design of Spirulina before the Magic Contest arc. Her familiar is named Durian. It's a male beta fish.

Top-Right: drawing (in overlay) of the spell of Spirulina during the Magic Contest.

Right: drawing in black and white ink of Spirulina and Durian, a perfect transition to our next chapter...





*Ink drawing
during the month of
October*



In October 2015 then 2017, I joined an online challenge: posting on social medias daily and during all the month a drawing made with inks. I'm not mentioning on this book the exact name of the challenge because the creator of this challenge decided to trademark it.

It quickly became one of the largest source of Pepper&Carrot drawings done aside the artworks produced for the panel of the episodes and so, one of the largest source of this book.

Page on left: Pepper and Carrot on the edges of the Komona city, looking at the clouds.

Right: Pepper's way to use her broom.

Under(left): The rivalities between Pepper and Saffron illustrated.

Under(right): the donkey of episode 20: The picnic and Carrot into a Don Quixotesque adventure against giant vacuum cleaners monters.







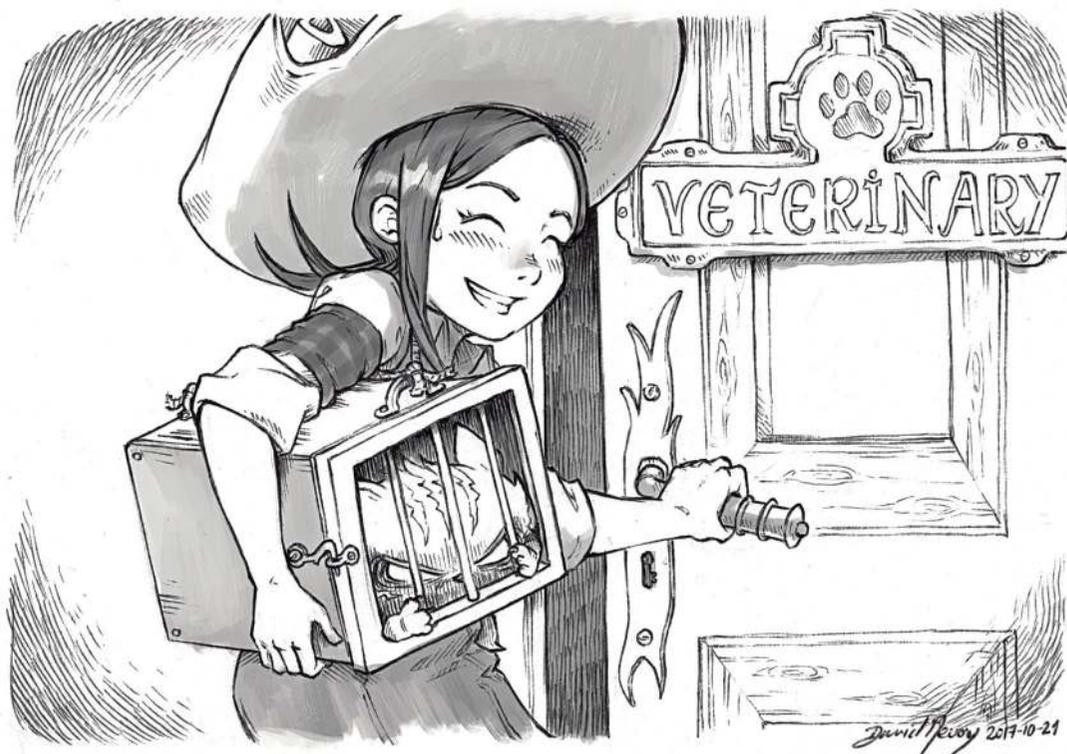
Page of left:
 Top: Pepper and Carrot as kids,
 stealing the nuts of a living tree.

Under(left): Pepper knitting the
 longest sock of the world (have you
 noticed the little paw of Carrot in
 foreground?)

Under(right): Pepper selling
 potions at the market.

This page:
 Top: bath time for Carrot, Pepper
 can try hard: it will be difficult.

On right: Pepper taking a very
 angry Carrot to the vet.





DR
10/1/2017

This page:

Top: landing training for Pepper!

Under(left): do you remember the Giant Poosh Zombie Canary bird of episode 6: The Potion Contest? I imagined her trying to get back a social life on a island. It doesn't look that easy.

Under(right): Carrot is impressed by the system this little mole found to walk the garden.

Page on right:

Top: Carrot invited Truffel (the cat of Saffron) for a date to a gastronomy restaurant but she was probably expecting to be inside the restaurant.

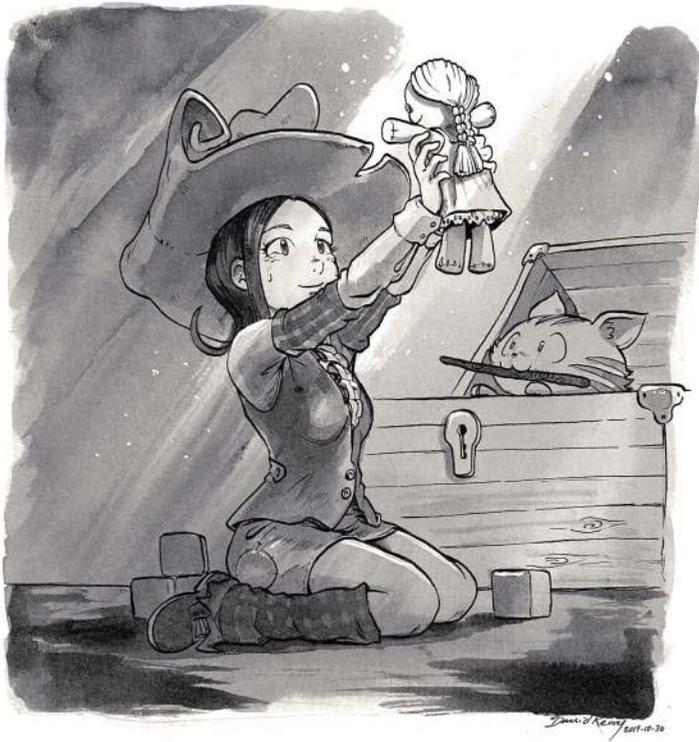
Bottom: Carrot and a mouse broke all the laboratory of Pepper, they both have good excuses and blame each other for starting the fight.







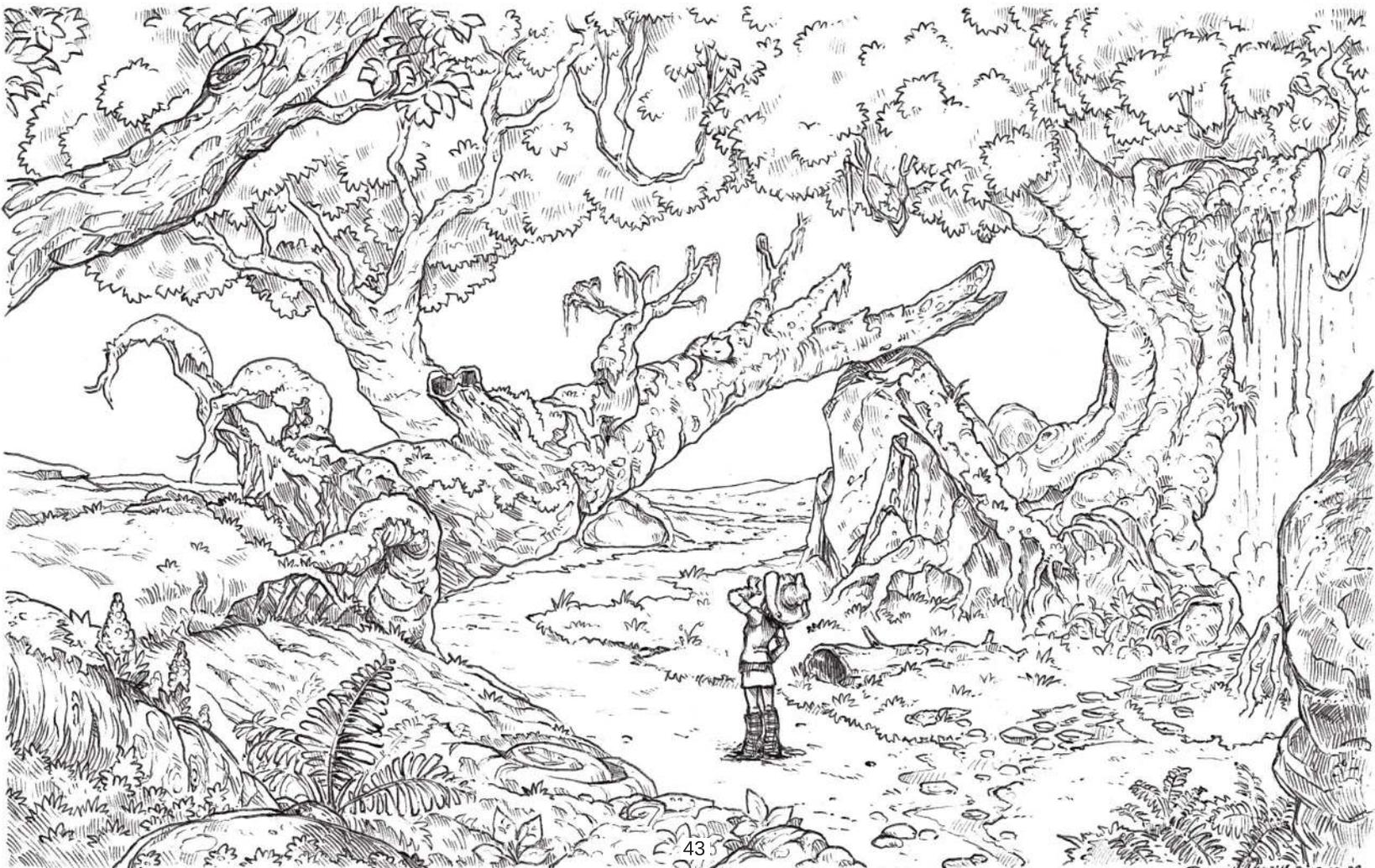
Pepper posing into the wind



Above: Pepper found her old doll in the attic: a real treasure to her.

Right: Pepper and Carrot jumping in a pile of leaf.

Under: a depiction of the forest around Pepper's home. Of course, Carrot is sleeping and Pepper just found him.





David Nevoy 2017-10-29



Above: Shichimi, Pepper and Coriander united.

Under: it's summertime and Pepper used a giant potion to enlarge an orange to get more juice! Unfortunately, Carrot doesn't like fruits.

Page on right: concept idea for Coriander on her flying ship. This one use the same type of floating technology than the tree of Komona.





The Blog

In-Between the production of new episodes, I write blog post to inform the audience about my progress. These blog-posts are often illustrated with artworks.

On top-right: the illustration for the release of the Code of Conduct on the project.

On right: part of a blog-post about refactoring, making difficult choices and big maintainance tasks.

I also cover with my information tickets the dates that punctuate the year: holidays, new years and the obligatory one for a series about witches: Halloween.

Under (left and right): drawing for Halloween.





Above: a mini comic for Halloween 2016

Under: artwork for the New Year 2015





Double page: compilation of the New Year artworks.







To celebrate the holiday time in December, I made a parody of Xmas in the world of Pepper & Carrot. They celebrate the "Unity" and decorates their house with a Unity tree. You'll find more about it on Episode 24 "The Unity Tree".

Left: Holidays 2016, Pepper does a Unity tree with magic.

Under: Pepper and Carrot decorating a Unity tree.





The blog is also the place to express my happiness and share good news and because a picture worth 1000 words...

Above: a Thank You posted for the contributors who sent donations right after the burglary of my house in 2017. My hardware was stolen and I couldn't finish the Magic Contest on time. The end of the month was difficult but this spontaneous wave of donations really helped to get through it on every levels.

Right: a party illustration to celebrate having more than 500 patrons on the project.







Pepper & Carrot

The relation between my main characters is often my topic of choice when I do a sketch or an artwork aside of the webcomic production. That's why I collected a lot of material about them. You'll see that in the next pages.

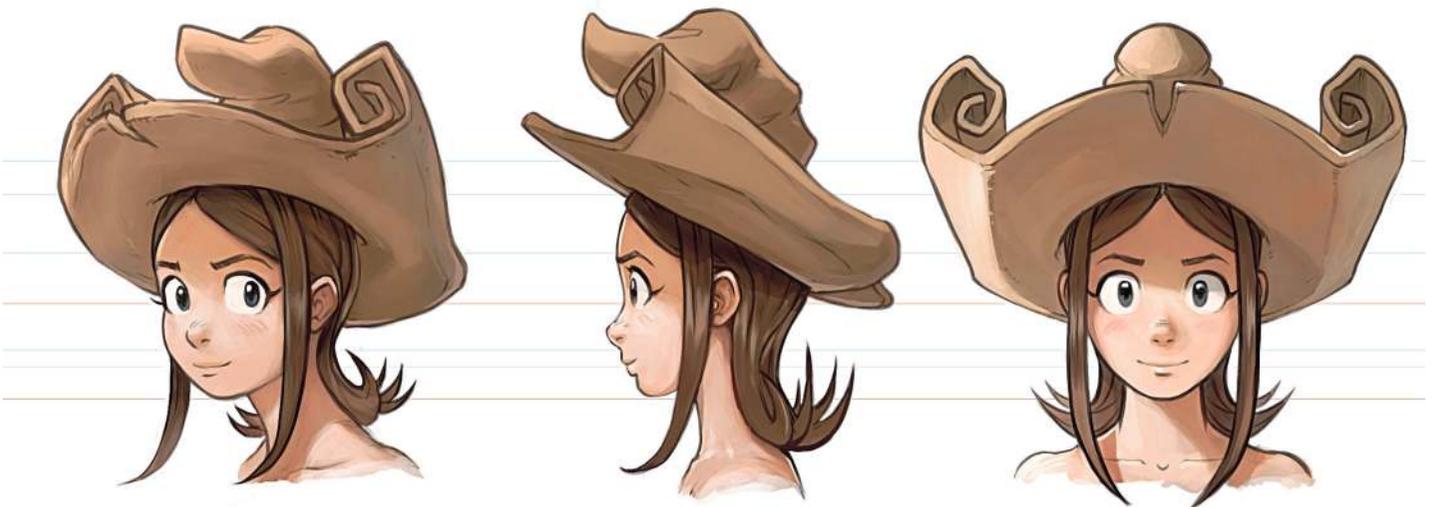


Above: a color rendering of a sketch of Pepper I had in my sketchbook. This sketch made before the episode 23: Take a Chance marked a turn into the way I designed Pepper. Under her mask of goofiness



Above: expression sheet for Carrot, research for extreme reactions and emotions.

Under: model-sheet for Pepper around episode 26: Books Are Great.





Above (left): sketch of Pepper thinking with a cup of hot chocolate after a hard day. She look surprised, maybe she saw something in her cup?

Above (right): artwork used when the website is in maintainance mode.

Left: Speedpainting featuring Carrot done into one hour livestream workshop about painting dragons for the Libre Graphic Meeting Online 2020.



Above: "Rainy days" a piece I made around Episode 22 when I wasn't in the mood.



Above: "Dawn" an artwork made to explore new body proportion for the young adult Pepper.



Above: Carrot wants to say he loves you! I published that to tell a big thank you to the supporters and contributors of the project.

Right: portrait of Pepper before the battlefield arc (episode 32 and 33). This artwork was a research for a more chaotic hat (more similar to the one of Thyme) and I tried to get Pepper wearing the Chaosah infinite sign around the neck like Cayenne does, the collar of bones like Thyme does.

Under: study for a ninja-Carrot, an idea for an episode that never was finished.



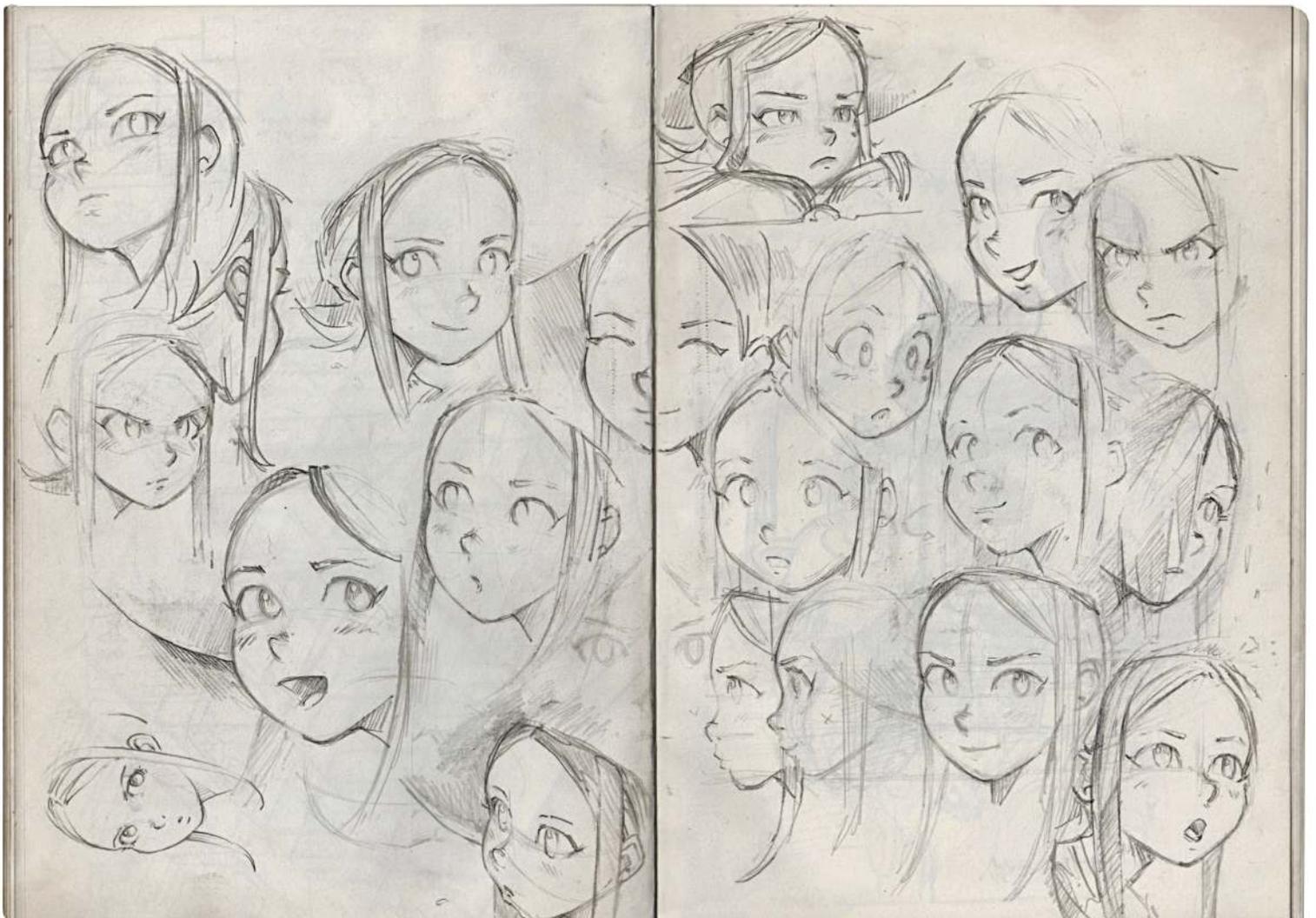


Above: drawing to announce on the blog the release of a podcast interview on librelounge.org.



Left: thumbnails color studies to find new color palettes and compositions.

Under: a double page from my sketchbook to study Pepper expression on episode 24.





Above: a speedpainting of Pepper before episode 31.



Above: before the production of episode 31 with the final exam of Pepper and the epic battle with Cayenne, I wanted to see how would work a powerful Pepper in full focus of a fight. Once I had this illustration, the episode was easier to produce.



Above: concept-art digital pencil artwork of Pepper I drew after the coronation arc, I was studying a silent episode for episode 30 with Pepper finding in it a magic staff and starting a quest to return it to its owner. I'll keep the idea for later maybe.



One of the challenge on a series with a witch for the main character is to find a good pose for her to ride a broom stick.

Above: sketches to search for better poses, view angle while keeping big smile and fresh energy to the overall.

Left: thumbnails studies for book cover of this book.

Opposite page: One illustration of Pepper flying above her house made to renew the header picture of the website.

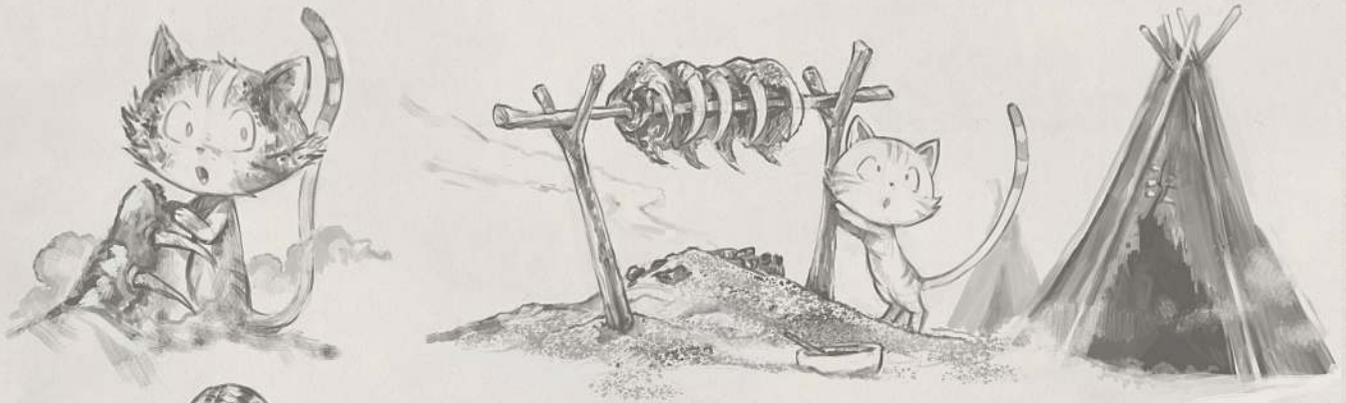




Above: character design for Pepper on the Battlefield arc.



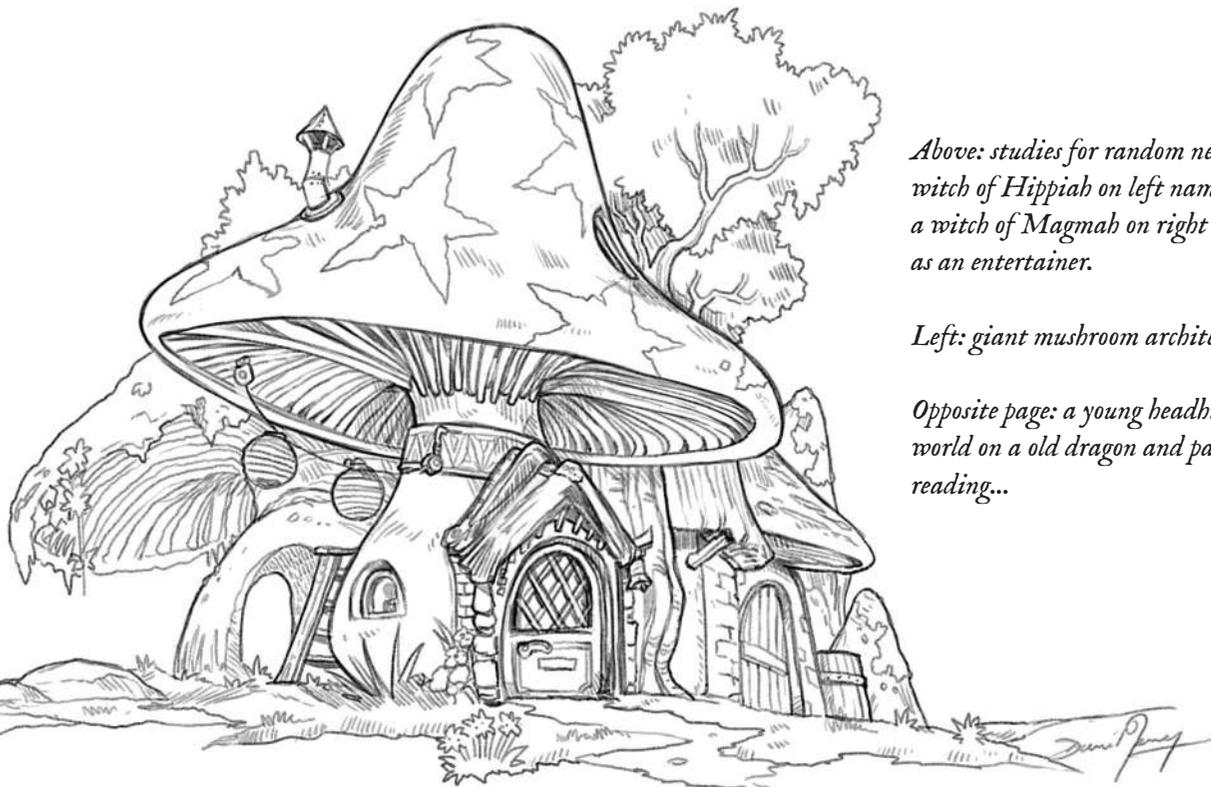
Above and under: preparatory drawing, concept-art and design for the episode 32: The Battlefield.



DAVID REVOY

Preparing the future

When I collected pictures of this book on my sketchbook, I realised I had a majority of them that were non-related directly to Pepper&Carrot. That's probably because it's one of my main usage of producing sketches is to prepare a lot of options for future scenarios. So, here is just a tiny sample, I'll keep most of them maybe for a future book.



Above: studies for random new characters, a witch of Hippiah on left named Marjoram and a witch of Magmah on right that use her magic as an entertainer.

Left: giant mushroom architecture.

Opposite page: a young headhunter traveling the world on a old dragon and passionated about reading...



-Fin-

Ending notes

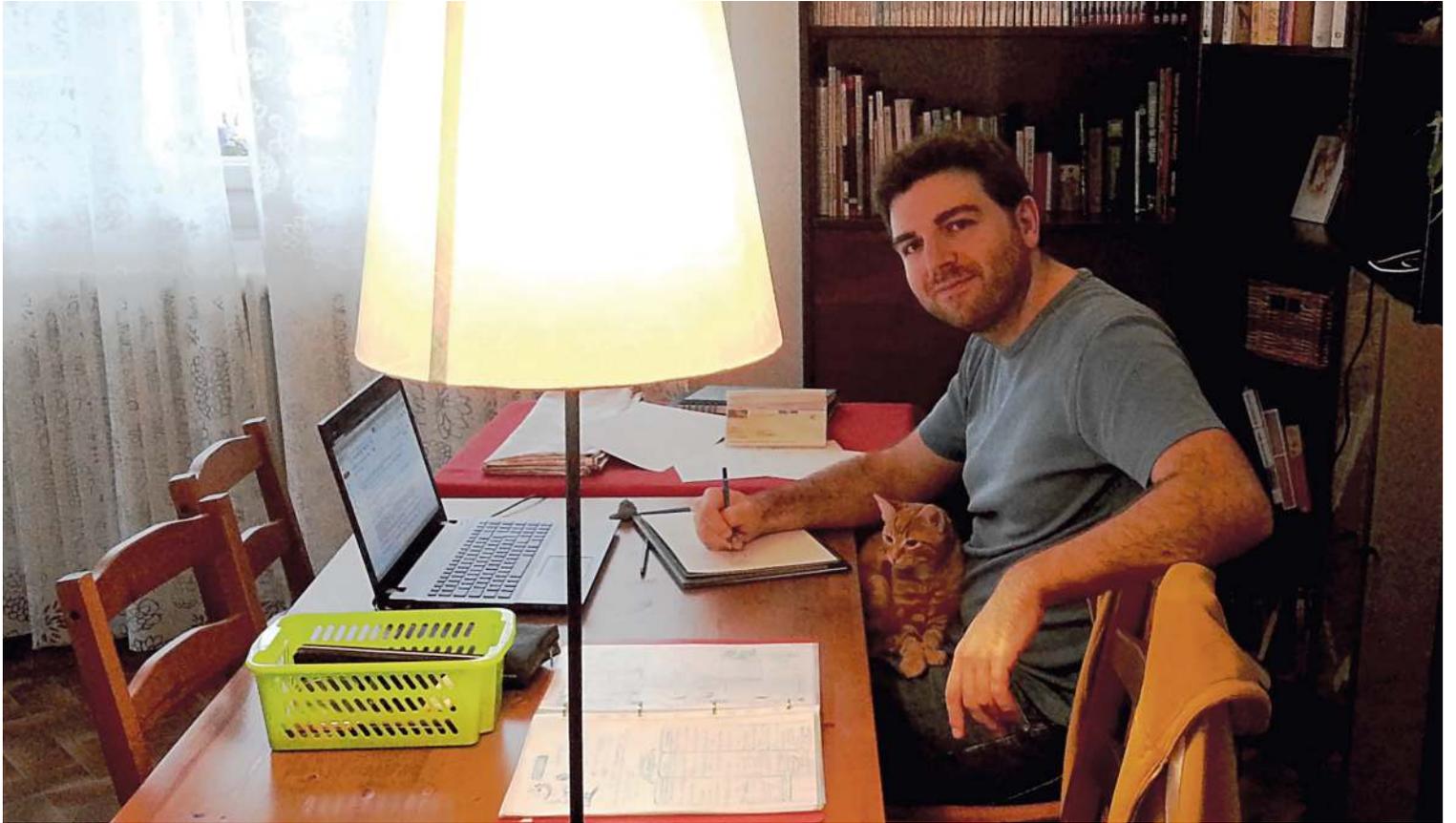
I hope you liked this collection of artworks as I liked to collect them, comment and arrange them into this book. I wanted to make this book something more than just a silent gallery of artworks and invite you into a way to discover a new aspect of the world of Pepper&Carrot that would complement the webcomic episodes.

Working on this big retrospective of unpublished artworks of Pepper&Carrot was also a perfect opportunity for me to take the time and think about the series. All in all, I spent a lot of my summer 2020 scanning sketchbook, cleaning the scans, improving the quality of the art for print, color correcting them and work on the layout. Of course, you'll find all the sources for the artwork of this book on the official website, "Sources" category in the main menu and under a permissive Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license.

After finishing a book like that, I have so many new stories in mind for Pepper&Carrot. Thank you very much for being around and for your accompaniment and support.

David Perry



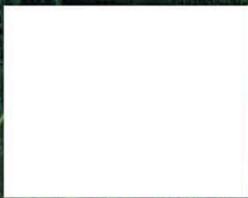


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