



sonia leong, artist & illustrator, sweatdrop studios

~ anime/manga-style ~ comics ~ illustrations ~

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Sonia Leong is a professional comic artist and illustrator specialising in Anime/Manga. Her first graphic novel was *Manga Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet* (SelfMadeHero). Her awards include Young Adult Library Services Association "2008 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers" and "Best Books for Young Adults 2008" for *Romeo and Juliet*; Winner in Tokyopop's first UK Rising Stars of Manga competition (2005/06) and Winner in NEO Magazine's 2005 Manga Competition. She designed the Catgirl mascot for Wacom-Europe's Manga campaign which began in 2006. Her artwork features prominently in the British movie, *Popcorn* (2007) and also on the set of Channel 4's popular sitcom *The IT Crowd*. She contributed *Siren* to *Comic Book Tattoo: Tales inspired by Tori Amos* (Image Comics). She illustrates the *Manga Life* series of self-help comic books (Infinite Ideas) *Find True Love* and *Be Creative*. Her work also appears in *Domo: The Manga* (Tokyopop/Big Tent). Sonia is also known for her work in children's publishing, namely the illustrations for the *I, Hero* series (Hachettes) by Steve Barlow and Steve Skidmore, *Girls FC* series (Walker) by Helena Pielichaty and *Ninja: First Mission* (Barrington Stoke) by Chris Bradford.

Sonia is the Company Secretary of Sweatdrop Studios, a leading UK comic collaborative and independent publisher of Manga. Her works with Sweatdrop include *Once Upon a Time...*, *Love Stuffing* and *Aya, Takeo*, a full-colour comic originally published online.

She has contributed to numerous instructional art books and been teaching Manga workshops since 2004, where she began by giving lectures at the Artist & Illustrators Magazine Exhibition. Her UK appearances include the Guardian Hay Festival, the Victoria & Albert Museum and London County Hall. She frequently represents UK creators overseas, working with the British Council and invited as a special guest at events and conventions across Europe, America and Asia.

Sonia works in a variety of mediums including watercolour, pen and ink, screentone, alcohol colour markers, pencils and computer software. She has exhibited artwork in the Kyoto International Manga Museum, London County Hall, London Cartoon Museum, Japanese Embassy, Manchester URBIS Centre and provided product demonstrations on behalf of Copic, Letraset, Wacom and Promethean.

Clients and associates

Artists & Illustrators Magazine, Asahi, Authors Abroad, Axis Publishing, Barrington Stoke, Barrons' Educational, Bournemouth Russell-Cotes Museum, British Council, Channel 4, COMiCA at the ICA, Copic, Families in Business Magazine, Garage Magazine, Guardian Hay Festival, Hachette's Childrens Books, Harper-Collins, Ilex Publishing, Image Comics, Infinite Ideas, International Manga and Anime Festival (IMAF), Japan 21, Japanese Embassy (London), Letraset, London MCM Expo, Manga Entertainment, Moshi Moshi Brighton, New Holland Publishers, NEO Magazine, Peters Bookselling, Popcorn (2007, British film), Promethean, Quarto Publishing, SelfMadeHero/MetroMedia, Seven Stories Press, Tablestar Games LLC, Tokyopop, Victoria & Albert Museum, VideoJug, Wacom, Walker Books, Wolff-Olins

Products:

Comics/graphic novels, illustration, branding/mascots, website graphics, character design, concept art, portraits, covers, how-to-draw publications/tutorials, workshops, presentations, product demonstration

Mediums/Software:

Pencils, colour pencils, pen and ink, screentone, watercolours, colour markers (Copic, Letraset, Deleter), Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Corel Painter, OpenCanvas, Paint Tool SAI

Academic qualifications / Prior work experience

Careers Research and Advisory Centre (CRAC)

Project Co-ordinator, Contracts and Marketing February 2004
Co-ordination and deputy management of various educational contracts
Conference organisation and delivery, research on EU directives, budgeting
Design of marketing material and websites

Administrator, Insights programmes (study skills courses) October 2003
Providing administrative support for Insights and UK GRAD courses
Actively involved in course delivery; attending courses off-site
Data entry, telephone enquiries, internal and external co-ordination

University of Warwick

Economics and Politics 2:1 BSc Hons June 2003
Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Computing and Data Analysis, Statistics, Econometrics, International Economics, the Making of Economic Policy, World Politics, UK Politics, Economic and Political Theory, Fascism and Nazism in Theory and Practice

Bangkok Patana School (British curriculum international school, Thailand)

International Baccalaureate Diploma 38/45 June 2000
Higher Level: Economics, Maths, English
Standard Level: Chemistry, French, Theatre Arts

9 GCSES June 1997 and 1998, All A*-C Grades.
Maths, English Language and Literature, French, Business Studies, Chemistry, Drama, Music, History

Other Skills

I.T. Skills

Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher
Excellent knowledge of Adobe Photoshop CS
Excellent knowledge of Paint Tool SAI
Proficient knowledge of HTML/CSS programming
Proficient knowledge of Deleter Comicworks
Proficient knowledge of Corel Painter iX
Proficient knowledge of OpenCanvas 4
Proficient knowledge of hardware, scanners, graphics tablets
Basic knowledge of econometric modelling with PcGive 10 / Givewin
Basic knowledge of Adobe Illustrator
Basic knowledge of Linux OS

Languages

English – 1st language
French – Fairly fluent writing and speaking
Japanese – Basic writing and speaking
Thai – Conversational

