



sonia leong, artist & illustrator, sweatdrop studios

~ anime/manga-style ~ comics ~ illustrations ~

e: sonia@fyredrake.net

w: www.fyredrake.net

Sonia Leong is a professional comic artist and illustrator specialising in the Anime/Manga style. 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. 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), the first two titles being *Find True Love* and *Be Creative*. Her work also appears in the *Domo: The Manga* (Tokyopop/Big Tent).

Sonia has been involved in many instructional art books - she was the Lead Artist for the book *Draw Manga* (New Holland) by Sweatdrop Studios, a leading UK comic collaborative. Sonia is a core member of the group and her most recent works with Sweatdrop include *Once Upon a Time...*, *Love Stuffing vol.1* and *Aya♥Takeo vol.1*, a full-colour comic originally published online.

She works in a variety of mediums including watercolour, pen and ink, screentone, alcohol colour markers, pencils and computer software. She has exhibited artwork in venues such as 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 and Wacom.

Publications/features:

- NEO Magazine #61, Suddenly Sonia (Aug 2009)
- NEO Magazine #60, Drop Dead Monstrous feature (Jul 2009)
- NEO Magazine #59, Once Upon a Time review (Jun 2009)
- Touring exhibition "How Manga Took Over the World" 2008-2009
- 50 Manga Babes to Draw and Paint, Chi Han Li (May 2008)
- Manga Life: Find True Love, Be Creative, Infinite Ideas (2008)
- I, Hero series: choose your own adventure books, by Skidmore & Barlow, Hachettes/Franklin-Watts, illustrated by Sonia Leong
- Aya.Takeo webcomic (Prentice Associates) since April 2007
- 500 Manga Characters, by SweatdropStudios, Ilex Press
- NEO Magazine #33, Inking tutorial (Jun 2007)
- NEO Magazine #32, Manga Mania Success stories (May 2007)
- NEO Magazine #31, Romeo & Juliet Review (Spring 2007)
- NEO Magazine #30, NEO News Network (Apr 2007)
- Manga Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet by Sonia Leong, (SelfMadeHero) (Mar 2007)
- Popcorn, the movie (2007)
- NEO Magazine #29, Bring on the Bard (Mar 2007)
- NEO Magazine #28, Sweatdrop Pick & Mix Tips (Feb 2007)
- Families in Business Magazine, Cover (Jan-07)
- NEO Magazine #25, Digital tone tutorial (Nov 2006)
- NEO Magazine #24, Digital Manga feature (Oct 2006)
- Draw Manga, by Sweatdrop Studios (Lead Artist/Editor) (Oct-06)
- NEO Magazine #23, Artist Showcase (Sept 2006)
- Drawing Manga, by Selina Dean (Sept-06)
- NEO Magazine #22, Manga Revolution (Aug 2006)
- Easel Does it: Drawing Shoujo Manga, by Keith Sparrow (Jun-06)
- Manga Clip Art, by Hayden Scott-Baron (Apr-06)
- NEO Magazine #17, Rising Stars of Manga feature (Apr 2006)
- TableStar Games LLC - Herocard Cyberspace (Mar-06)
- Easel Does it: Drawing Action Manga, by Keith Sparrow (Feb-06)
- Tokyopop UK Rising Stars of Manga, 2nd Place Winner (Jan-06)
- International Anime and Manga Festival (Oct-05)
- Digital Manga Techniques, Hayden Scott-Baron (Sep-05)
- Easel Does it: Anime Art, by Keith Sparrow (Sep-05)
- NEO Magazine #10, Colour Marker tutorial (Sep-05)
- NEO Magazine #9, Sweatdrop Manga tutorial (Aug-05)
- What's On in London (Jul-05)
- NEO Magazine #8, Manga Competition winner (Jul-05)
- Aniway Magazine #20 (May-05)

Clients and associates

- London MCM Expo
- Popcorn (2007, British movie)
- Channel 4
- TableStar Games LLC
- Letraset
- Copic
- Wacom
- Wolf-Olins
- Walker Books
- New Holland Publishers
- Axis Publishing
- Image Comics
- NEO Magazine
- Families in Business Magazine
- Tokyopop
- SelfMadeHero (Metromedia)
- Ilex publishing
- Quarto Publishing
- Barrons' Educational
- Infinite Ideas
- Harper-Collins
- Franklin-Watts / Hachettes books
- Victoria & Albert Museum
- Bournemouth Russell-Cotes Museum
- COMiCA at ICA
- Japanese Embassy, London

Press coverage

- Independent, Life Supplement (4 Dec 2008)
- BBC Look East (25 Oct 2007)
- Birmingham Mercury (14 Oct 2007)
- The Times (12 Oct 2007)
- Financial Times Cover & Magazine (Feb-07)
- Independent on Sunday, ABC magazine (Feb-07)
- Guardian Observer: Review, pg 3 (11 Feb 2007)
- The Asahi Shimbun (with International Herald Tribune, Japan) – Weekend Beat, 3-4 Feb 2007
- BBC Radio Cambridgeshire (Jan-07)
- Cambridge Crier (2005)
- TNT Magazine (Oct-05)