

“You can’t draw humans if you do not know anatomy. I studied it at school but, continued to study/draw anatomy by myself for years”



SKETCHBOOK OF DANIELE MONTELLA

This month's sketchbook gives us an insight in to the mind of Daniele Montella, and shows us a great variety of styles and subject matter. Daniele has a really versatile style and that shines through in this

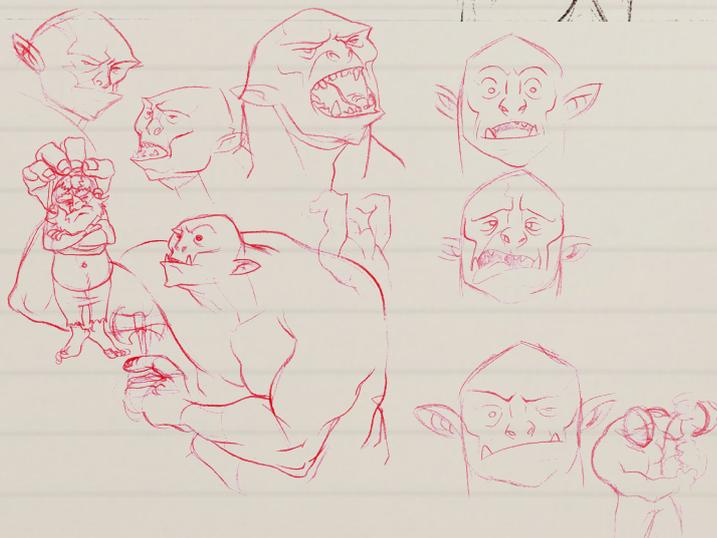
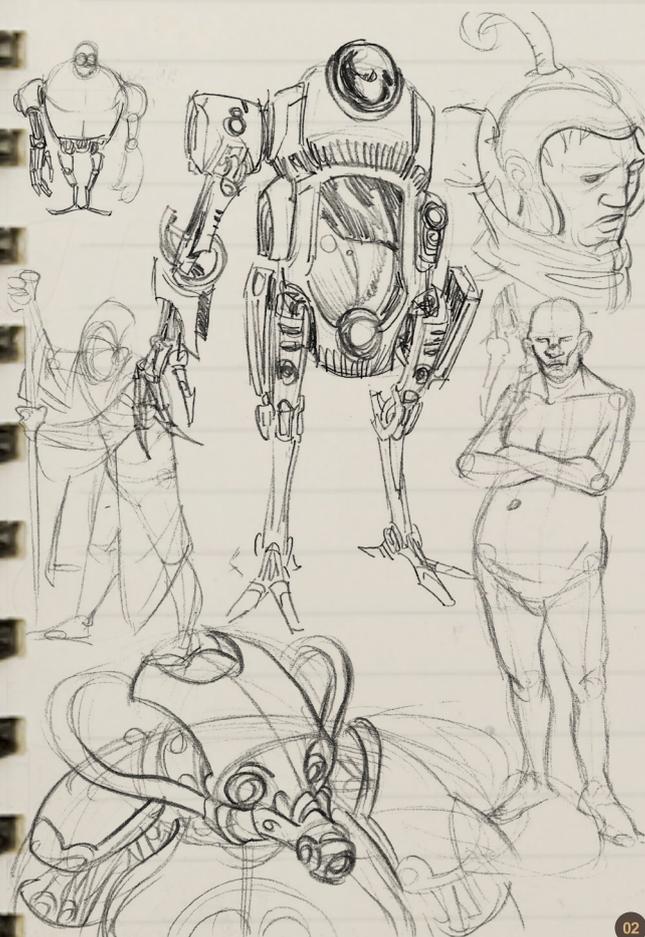
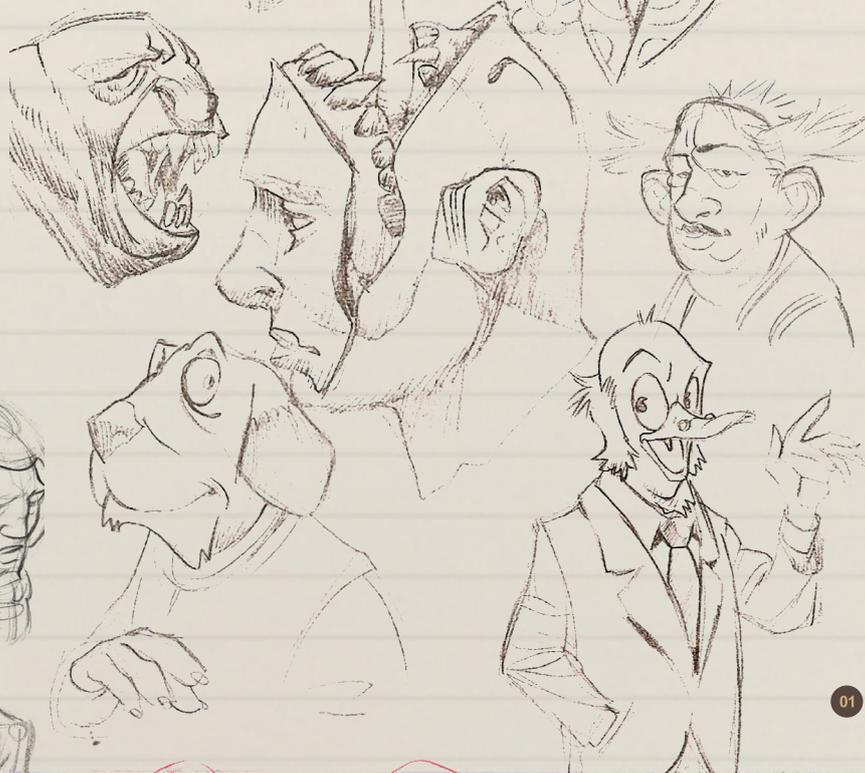
diverse and interesting sketchbook.

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My passion for drawing drives me to try many different styles and subjects. I like to draw monsters and creatures, strange men or sexy girls. I like science fiction, fantasy, realistic and cartoony styles. Usually everything is from my imagination. This page is a good example (Fig.01).

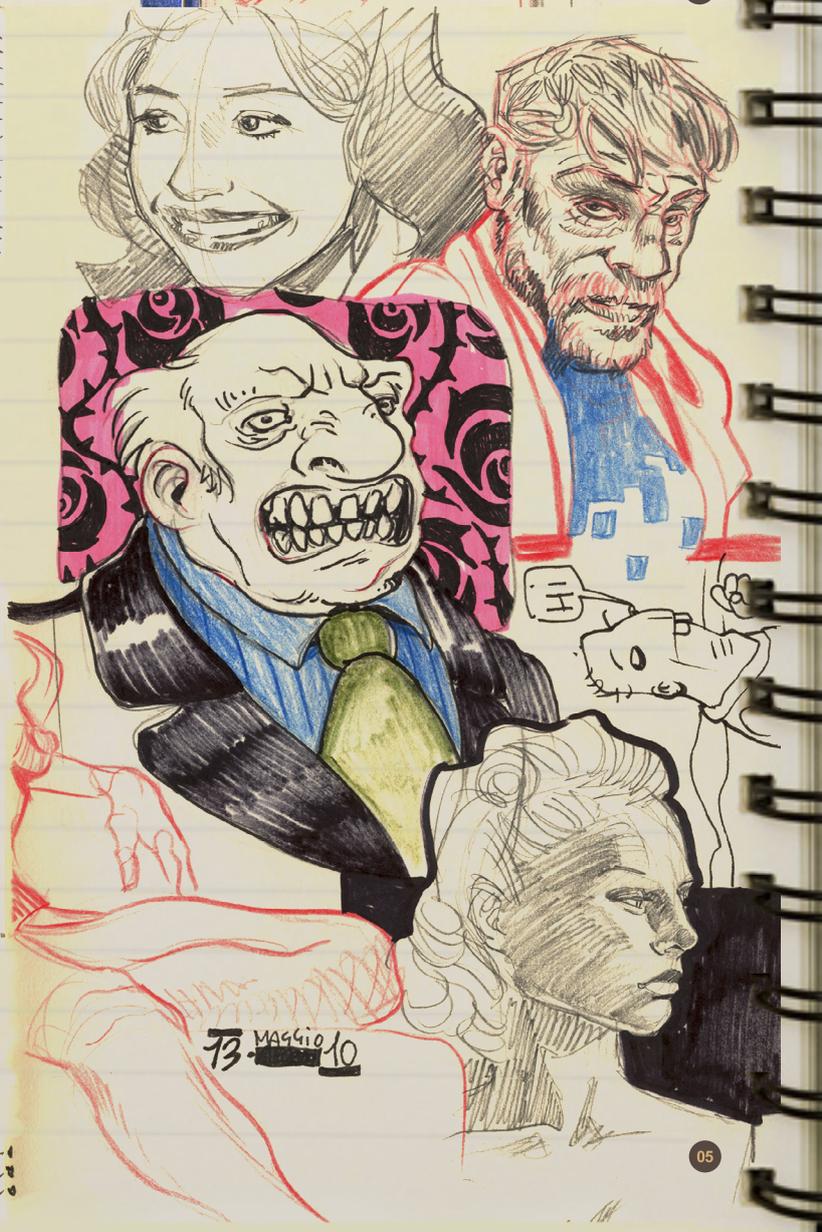
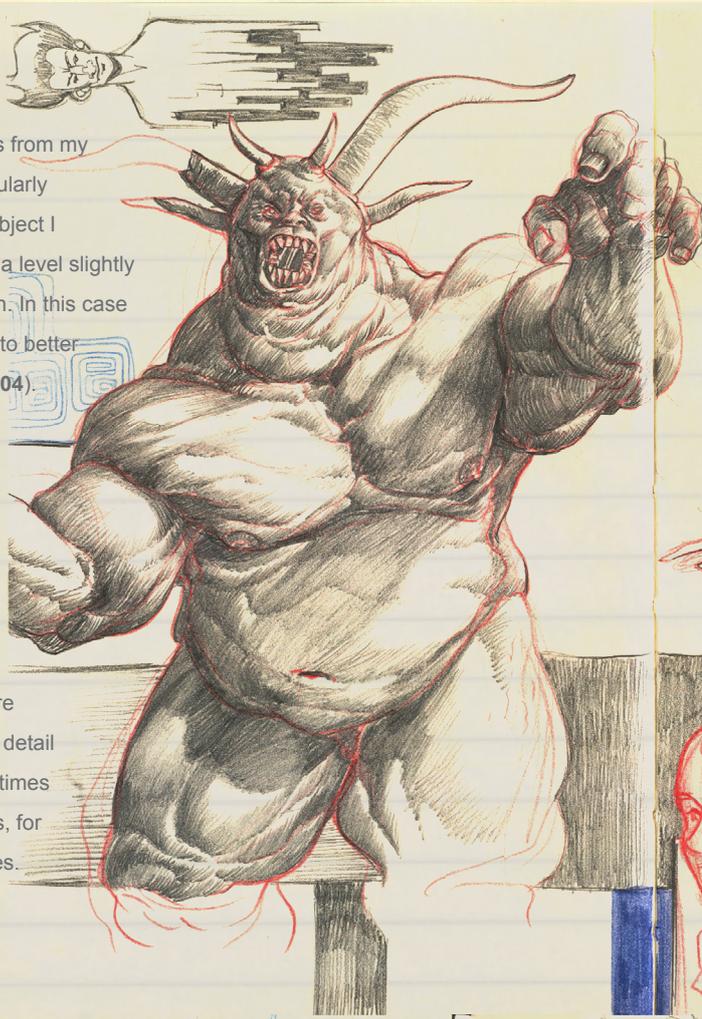
This is an example of my realistic/cartoon style (Fig.02). I love this style because it gives me great freedom of expression. I can exaggerate proportions, shapes and expressions. The goal is to be able to put a little bit of irony in my drawing.

Fig.03 is a page full of drawings in different stages of completion. Often I like to draw quickly, with as few strokes as possible to put my ideas on paper before they vanish. You can easily see the construction lines under my figures; they are necessary to draw proportionate and three-dimensional figures.



Here are a couple of pages from my 2010 Moleskin that I particularly like. When I find a good subject I like to push the drawing to a level slightly higher than a simple sketch. In this case I played with the contrasts to better describe the volumes (Fig.04).

Trying different tools and colors is really fun in a sketchbook (Fig.05). Red pencil is perfect for a quick light sketch and you can add the details with blue. The red lines are more comfortable when you add detail or trace with a pen. I sometimes use dry and Magic Markers, for graphic elements or outlines.



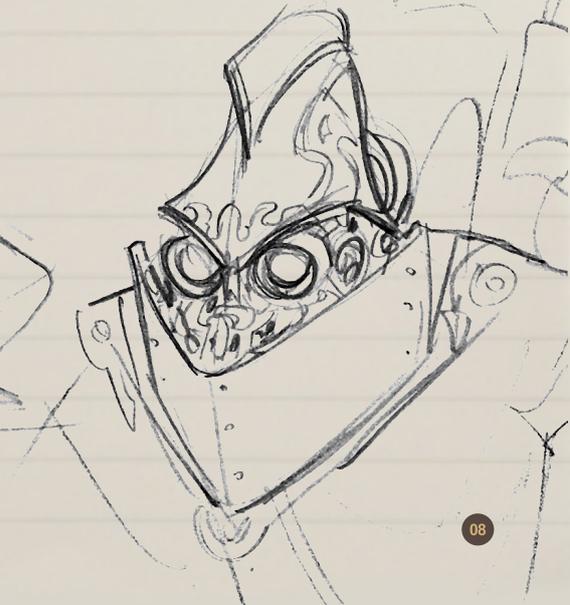
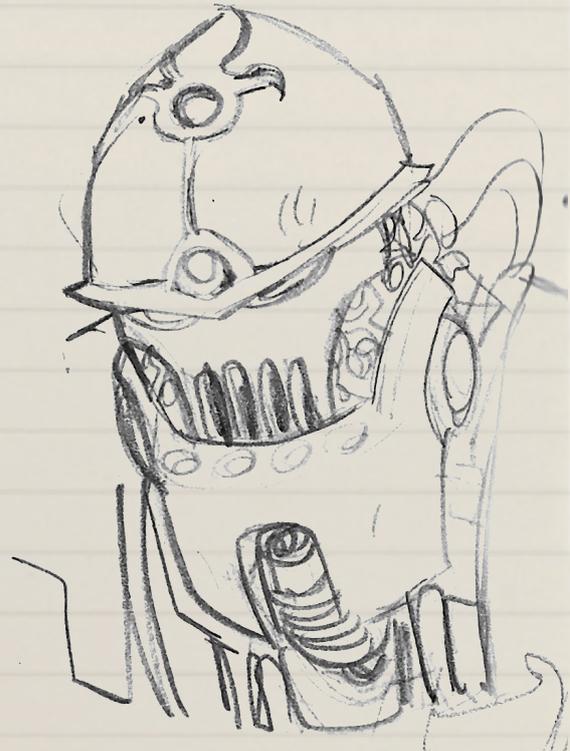
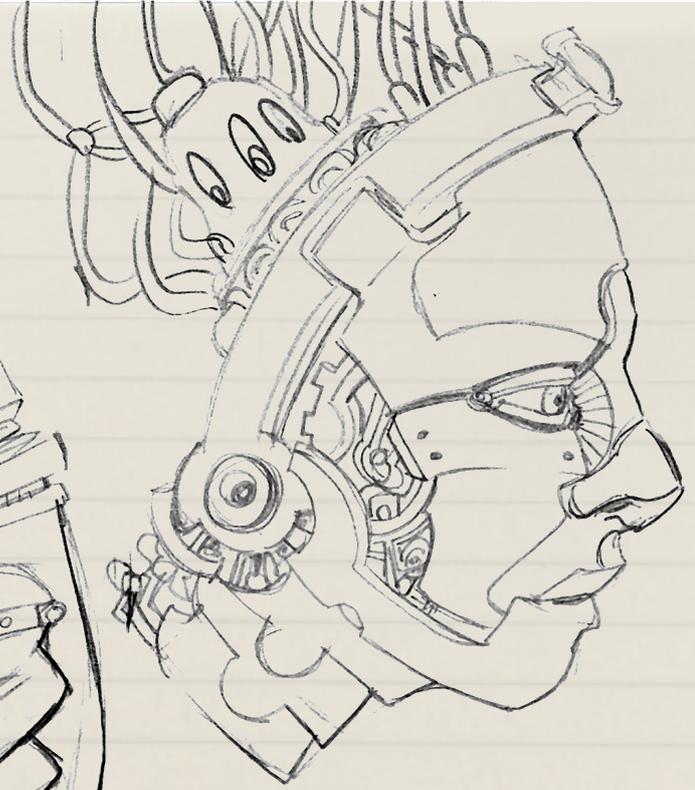
This page was drawn with a black and red marker (Fig.06). I love to play with black and white, using positive and negative areas to bring out shapes. I like doing this because of my love for comics!



You can't draw humans if you do not know anatomy (Fig.07). I studied it at school but, continued to study/draw anatomy by myself for years. I have pages and pages of it. When you trace lines with pencil it's great to discover forms and volumes of a body, and be able to give it the right weight and pose. In this case I pushed the forms a little more than normal to create a more powerful figure.



I'm absolutely mad for steampunk! I love spending time drawing gears, joints, tubes, rivets and screws (Fig.08). I have thousands of photo references of steam engines, old locomotives, and Victorian clothes and props. I put it together and create strange robots, vehicles, and so on... is there anything more fun than this?



Here is another example of a page featuring miscellaneous subjects (Fig.09). Here I enjoyed using a grease pencil, which is almost like a charcoal. The result is a warm effect with strong contrast between light and shadows, with loose and soft lines.

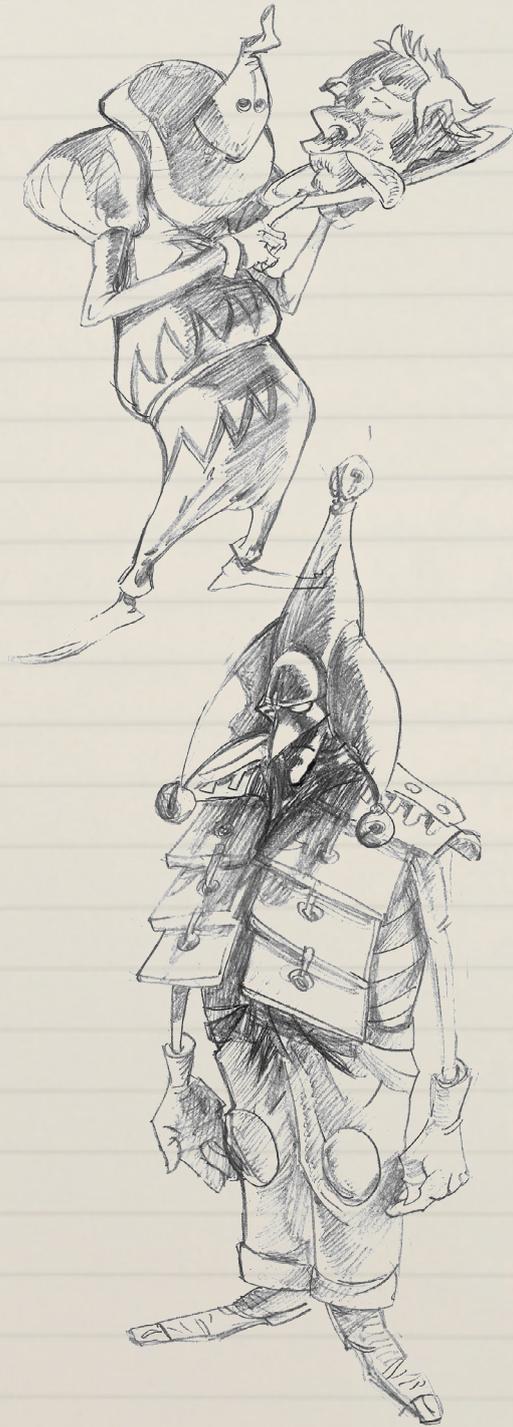


The ultimate goal for an illustrator is to tell something through his drawing (Fig.10). I usually try to do that. Sometime it's not so easy, but all those who see this page tell me that the fat guy is definitely saying something sad about himself and his life, and this was my intention, so I'm happy to hear it works.





A sexy girl with a gun and some weird characters... a nice pairing (Fig.11). Being an illustrator is definitely a tough job! I remember I drew this page during the train ride home from work. I commuted to work for 13 years; it wasn't great, but I could draw two hours a day for years, and it was an extraordinary exercise. It helped make my drawings more confident!



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