**Overview**

This is a guide for those wanting to learn about Design for TV animation without going into massive debt due to art school

Note: This is primarily for TV animation because that’s what I’m more familiar with. A lot of the same ideas can definitely translate to Feature! Also, I am a story artist so forgive me if there are any mistakes!

DM me at [@ebbiga](https://twitter.com/ebbigal)l on Twitter or [@ebbigal\_](https://www.instagram.com/ebbigal_/) on Instagram if you have any other resources/feedback!

TV Animation is very specialized so I broke this document into sections to cover each role!

Lost on which role is for you? [Read this little guide on TV anim production](https://makingtoons.tumblr.com/post/177946571466/how-tv-cartoons-are-made-a-mostly-simplified) and scroll down to design

Storyboarding more your style? [I have a guide for that too!](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rtJQ7teHzWNmfJANr1RW6xE66jRu0TIKO-fB0VZhIN4/edit?usp=sharing)

PWUW = Pay What You Want

# **Color Design**

Guide’s on what you do on the job:

[Jess Marfisi’s](https://twitter.com/jessdrawz/status/938847340512681984?s=20) guide on what a Color Designer does!

[BAM Animation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4atFicBvhMM&ab_channel=BaMAnimation) video on Coloring Characters the Industry Way!

Videos for better color theory

[Marco Bucci’s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LhcNbFMkTw&ab_channel=MarcoBucci) video on Color Harmony

[Blender Guru’s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qj1FK8n7WgY&ab_channel=BlenderGuru) video on Understanding Color

[Paint with](https://twitter.com/PaintWithNick) Nick’s [Practical Color Theory](https://gumroad.com/paintwithnick#OsaV) ($25)

[Devin Korwin’s](https://twitter.com/devinkorwin/status/1278049901709012995) thread on color in painting

[Laura Norwood’s](https://twitter.com/Treatscraft) guide to [quick color thumbnailing](https://twitter.com/Treatscraft/status/1072883117109723136?s=20)

Misc

[Courtney](https://twitter.com/ZestyDoodles) Coffman’s [CTNX Color styling Portfolio](https://twitter.com/ZestyDoodles) review

[MingjueChen’s](https://twitter.com/MingjueChen) [Lighting presentation for WIR2](https://twitter.com/mingjuechen/status/1217952625217265664?s=21&fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[Color Designer Committee](https://twitter.com/colordesign839)

## Color Design Examples

[Amphibia by Andy Garner-Flexner](https://twitter.com/oh_heyyy_andy/status/1297674160097828864?s=20)

[Shera by Grey Chen](https://twitter.com/greychen_/status/1263923513028538374?s=21&fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[Steven Universe Connie by Leigh Luna](https://twitter.com/ourobora/status/1236415013243342848?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[Glitch Tech colorscript by Scott Kikuta](https://twitter.com/crayonmonsters/status/1231628286255460353?s=20)

[Big City Greens colorscript by Kassandra Heller](https://twitter.com/KassandraHeller/status/1204108529084157952?s=20)

[Green Eggs and Ham by Carol Wyatt](https://twitter.com/bettycouch/status/1197567624231579648?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[Owl House by Mari Alizor](https://twitter.com/Chromantica/status/1288232587698159616?s=20)

# **Background Art**

[Jay](https://twitter.com/jaykittens) Kitten’s [Background Advice](https://twitter.com/jaykittens) Q and A

[Devin](https://twitter.com/DevinElleKurtz) Elle Kurtz’s [Background Art Workshop](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DuEuE9LDDQ&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc&ab_channel=DevinElleKurtz)

[Andrea Gerstmann’s](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtT23frjDyraXQAYmmfrnJQ) Animation Stuff: [How to Paint a Farm](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4l_Pu_G3YY&ab_channel=AndreaGerstmann)

Laura Price’s [Day in the Life of A Disney Artist](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3UP3V4SjgM&ab_channel=LauraPrice)

[Corinne’s](https://twitter.com/amiamihan) Thread on learning [Blender for BGS](https://twitter.com/amiamihan/status/1290479651995836418?s=21&fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[CNS Recruiting](https://www.instagram.com/cns_recruiting/): Art Director’s [Break down Backgrounds](https://www.instagram.com/p/CDPs7TeDIk0/)

## **BG Design**

[Latoya Raveneau’](https://www.instagram.com/bladesandaces/?hl=en)s Day in the life of a [BG Designer](http://www.toyarave.com/day-to-day-series.html?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[Steve Lowtwait](https://twitter.com/Lowtwait) has a bunch of threads on [designing BGs!](https://twitter.com/Lowtwait/status/1233098525715484672?s=20)

Check out his [twitter](https://twitter.com/Lowtwait/status/1300934567067484161?s=20) for [more](https://twitter.com/Lowtwait/status/1295789968283975680?s=20)

[Andrea Gerstmann’s](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtT23frjDyraXQAYmmfrnJQ) Animation Stuff: [Background Design Tips](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDvGas5KkI0&ab_channel=AndreaGerstmann)

[BAM Animation’s](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4Qvpti1dS1KKC7PLyLl__g) Perspective [Drawing in Photoshop](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upxBGNcryRs&ab_channel=BaMAnimation)

[Matt Laskowki’s Perspective Class](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBUWOBID4m3MTjAEaTHNNWfNkjZegSjzK)

[Ernest R. Norling Perspective Made Easy](http://www.storytellerartist.com/documents/Perspective_Made_Easy.pdf)

[Paint with](https://twitter.com/PaintWithNick) Nick’s [Practical Perspective](https://gumroad.com/l/practicalperspective?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc) class ($25)

BG Design Examples

[Faith Schaffer’s BG Design work](https://twitter.com/faith_schaffer/status/872497037245394949?s=20)

[Britney Thoreson’s BG Design work](https://twitter.com/britneythoreson/status/1265792262593589248?s=20)

[Kipo BG Design by Angela Sung](https://twitter.com/AngelaSungArt/status/1298682628925616128?s=20)

[Amphibia BG Design by Joey McCormick](https://twitter.com/J_McCor/status/1284876875173511169?s=20)

## **BG Paint**

Lulusketches’ [Background Painting Tutorial](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=so3owYqcwVg&ab_channel=LauraPrice) video

[Nicholas](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwwfcF3tH1zgpvHhe9NXQNA) Kennedy’s [Background Painting Walkthrough](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3656QBywSg&ab_channel=NicholasKennedy)

[How to Paint a ‘Klaus” style Background](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqJ_pq2YZK0&ab_channel=TheSPAStudios)

[Levon](https://twitter.com/ForkFrenzy) Jihanian’s [BG Paint](https://twitter.com/forkfrenzy/status/1297750960496709632?s=21&fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc) tips thread

Marco Bucci’s [Painting Fundamentals](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPz8Xyt3z-w&t=1s&ab_channel=MarcoBucci)

Marco Bucci’s [10 Tips for Better Painting](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nap7dwHjD9Y&list=PLLmXZMqb_9sbNLM83NrM005vRQHw1yTKn&ab_channel=MarcoBucci) playlist

[Patrick O’Keefe](https://twitter.com/okeefe_artist)’s [Painted Illustration](https://www.learnsquared.com/courses/2d-sequence-illustration?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc) course ($165)

Downloadable BG Designs for paint practice

<https://twitter.com/foxorian/status/1270112155023470593>

<https://twitter.com/britneythoreson/status/1288555970637963264?s=20>

[https://twitter.com/andrewgeorger/status/1295101802489057280?s=21&fbcli](https://twitter.com/andrewgeorger/status/1295101802489057280?s=21&fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[=IwA390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc](https://twitter.com/andrewgeorger/status/1295101802489057280?s=21&fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

### BG Paint Examples

[Steven Universe painted by Melissa King](https://twitter.com/mellydraws/status/1237773908058574848?s=20)

[Part 2](https://twitter.com/mellydraws/status/1237774717785784321?s=20)

[Infinity Train painted by Melissa King](https://twitter.com/mellydraws/status/1215697457616523264?s=20)

[MaoMao painted by Yudi Chen](https://twitter.com/udeesee/status/1173704255208706049?s=20)

# **Props**

[Rick and Morty: Prop Process](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJmbAoTN8wg&ab_channel=AdultSwim)

[Phils](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvedReHaxA4VXPPPCvAUWaQ) Design Corner [Intro to Prop Design](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIlf1bH_TqU&ab_channel=PhilsDesignCorner)

[Maaike’s](https://twitter.com/yesmaaike) Rapid Fire tips for [Prop Design](https://twitter.com/yesmaaike/status/1285642480428490755)

[CNS Recruiting](https://www.instagram.com/cns_recruiting/) Character Design and [Prop Design for TV Anim](https://www.instagram.com/tv/CDSJikbjpao/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)

[Frank and Becky’s](https://twitter.com/beckyandfrank) Character and Prop [Designs from the talk ^](https://twitter.com/beckyandfrank/status/1288962126065721344)

[Isaac Orloff’s](https://twitter.com/IsaacOrloff) VisDev Guidebook: [Design Pipeline Fundamentals for 3D Animation](https://gumroad.com/l/visdevguide_vol01) ($12)

## Prop Design examples

[Wizards of Arcadia by Isaac Orloff](https://twitter.com/IsaacOrloff/status/1292934069559259136?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[Amphibia by Steve Wolfhard](https://twitter.com/wolfhard/status/1283830952616062976?s=20)

[Craig of the Creek by Maaike Scherff](https://maaikescherff.com/#prop)

# **Character Design**

[Maaike’s](https://twitter.com/yesmaaike) [Character Design Portfolio Tips](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qdVJGaSSumObljHYW6xLYe5R850VWAQudzKPQizHQwk/edit)

[Allison Perry’s tips on Character Design Portfolios](https://twitter.com/allisonperryart/status/1274846452284456961?s=20)

[Jess Lackey’s](https://twitter.com/mmmjoos) Portfolio Guide for [Character Designers](https://twitter.com/mmmjoos/status/1292920957133185025?s=20)

[Laura Price’s How to Make a Character Design Portfolio](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQMSfmzQVS0&ab_channel=LauraPrice)

[Latoya Raveneau’](https://www.instagram.com/bladesandaces/?hl=en)s Day in the life of a [Character Designer](http://www.toyarave.com/uploads/2/3/7/8/23787871/daytoday_character_designer.pdf)

[BaM Animation Character Turns like a Pro!](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvUkaBhwAFY&t=328s&ab_channel=BaMAnimation)

[BaM Animation Good vs BAD Character Design Tips](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wm9ti-gzLM&ab_channel=BaMAnimation)

[Brookes Eggleston’s Let’s Design a CAST of Characters!](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k42cfUf1COc&ab_channel=BrookesEggleston-CharacterDesignForge)

[Amanda Jolly’s Art Q&A’s](https://www.instagram.com/p/CDkN7bXgX0X/?igshid=1pbynyzwmyut0&fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[Toniko Pantoja’s Improve Drawing and Character Design](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e05nT6wDQGU&ab_channel=TonikoPantoja)

[Ideas to Consider when Creating BIPOC Characters](https://www.instagram.com/p/CB0tt9Cg2Xg/?igshid=19rfndtd2fqv9&fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

## Character Design Examples

[Pocket from Trick Moon](https://twitter.com/cartoonfuntime/status/1286029641413623809?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc) by [Brandon Wu](https://twitter.com/beckyandfrank), Colors by [Kali Ciesemier](https://twitter.com/kalidraws)

[Trickshot Character Guide by Geneva](https://twitter.com/cartoonfuntime/status/1287830721420095489?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[Owl House special poses by Justin Noel](https://twitter.com/Jnoel150/status/1292897021225918465?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[Infinity Train Character Designs and special poses by Megan Phonesavanh](https://twitter.com/meganimation/status/1283866752594526209?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[Owl House predesigns by Matthieu Cousin](https://twitter.com/insidematthieu/status/1219768164348723201?s=20)

## Anatomy/Gesture

[Toniko Pantoja’s Basic Human Anatomy and Figure Invention for Animation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpBpAJxfzF4)

[Sycra’s Playlist on Human Anatomy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByIMGhV3ITU&list=PLvuHXpOA9tjLzoq8SQ9IWALIBjnaoGWBl)

[Natalie Nourigat Figure Drawing Tips](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fa9CLiGhWr4)

[Toniko’s Drawing Figures Fast with Technique for Animation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fa9CLiGhWr4)

[Griz and Norm Tuesday’s Tips](https://grizandnorm.tumblr.com/tagged/100tuesdaytips)

[Natalie Norigat’s Tips on Loosening Up](https://twitter.com/Tallychyck/status/1215487591849459712?s=20)

[Tracing to Learn](https://twitter.com/CytricAcidArt/status/1258980748088008705?s=20)

[Vee’s Tutorials for Art and Animation (PWUW)](https://twitter.com/violainebriat)

## Figure Drawing Models (NSFW)

<https://line-of-action.com/>

<https://vimeo.com/channels/1300087>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jy1rwangC3k&list=PL7EWYwaF6E-H65W-hXeKvv](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jy1rwangC3k&list=PL7EWYwaF6E-H65W-hXeKvvO_xNA_kIs5w)

[\_xNA\_kIs5w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jy1rwangC3k&list=PL7EWYwaF6E-H65W-hXeKvvO_xNA_kIs5w)

<https://www.deviantart.com/senshistock/gallery>

# **MISC resources**

[Art of Books](https://characterdesignreferences.com/art-of-animation?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[Netflix Recruiter AMA art portfolios](https://www.instagram.com/p/CAL82YTjbdc/?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[Amber](https://twitter.com/eyecager) Blade Jones’ [MISC tips](https://twitter.com/eyecager/status/1277725880865812481?s=20)

<https://processresource.tumblr.com/>

[Maaike’s](https://twitter.com/yesmaaike) Real Quick [Resume Guide](https://gumroad.com/l/resumeguide) (PWUW)

[Maaike’s](https://twitter.com/yesmaaike) [TV Animation Basics Zine](https://gumroad.com/l/Vuhuk?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc) (PWUW)

[Jody](https://twitter.com/ProuseJody) Prouse’s [Tips on applying to companies](https://twitter.com/prousejody/status/1297021625913585664?s=21&fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[Advice to Illustrators looking to transfer to Animation](https://twitter.com/lozzadraws/status/1290353885538684928?s=20)

[TAG Story Group Portfolio Website Advice](https://twitter.com/TAGStoryGroup/status/1270058624207839232?s=20)

[TAG on Excessive Testing](https://twitter.com/TAGStoryGroup)

[The Etherington Brothers 300 Free tutorials](https://theetheringtonbrothers.blogspot.com/p/every-how-to-think-when-you-draw.html?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

[Art Resources Links](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ISlUjHAY6nhfQZhmfD_88zNG_c4rTYZz1uIKifC0cpA/edit?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc#gid=715443551)

[Zol’s](https://twitter.com/Zolvios) Master [thread of resources](https://twitter.com/Zolvios/status/1282767449155186689?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)

**Discords**

Discord servers are a great way to help build up a community of artists and connect with others without going to art school. Once you get a good group of artists, I also suggest making a storyboarding focused discord with close friends!

RAD Artists Network

<https://discord.gg/TEUDrRx>

Emotional Support Artists

<https://discord.gg/n3H43ZB>

Gestalt (Backgrounds Focused)

<https://discord.com/invite/U5RZFb4>

[More Art Discords](https://gestalt-resources.tumblr.com/post/190914926242/art-discords?fbclid=IwAR390DhpSgpxwsF221mNqJOT4uFoVbonF3RuR5aW2FFPPmF4nZ3o7tayIhc)