

Sheila Johnson  
16034 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Tinley Park, Illinois 60487  
520-869-0317  
sheilacjohnson@gmail.com

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## **SPOTLIGHT ON: DIOGENES NEVES**

Marvel's New Rising Star

Takes On *The New Mutants*

by

Sheila Johnson

If you caught the *X-Men: Worlds Apart* miniseries, then you caught the Marvel debut of an up-and-coming artistic talent whose pencils are the latest to bring Marvel's characters to life: Diogenes Neves. Those who missed it will get another chance to see this artist's carefully styled renderings with the release of *The New Mutants* #1, which features Neves as the interior artist for the series.

Even though Neves has only recently begun to work for Marvel, the thirty-year-old lifelong resident of Brazil is hardly new to penciling comics—or to drawing in general. "I always loved to draw," he told *Marvel Spotlight* in a translated interview. "When I was a kid, I loved Spider-Man. I used to draw Spider-Man in my father's political magazines." It wasn't long before the self-taught artist moved on from doodling in the margins of periodicals. "When I was thirteen years old, a friend of mine told me that his brother was drawing for Marvel, and I became obsessed with knowing how he did it (I'm talking about [penciler] Fabio Laguna). So I began to draw some pages, and he kindly looked at them and gave me tips and advice. A little time later, he introduced me to [penciler] Luke Ross, and he helped me with my pages, too."

Fueled by his self-professed love for both superheroes and art as well as the advice and encouragement he received ("Blame my parents!!! They give me all the support I need!"), Neves struck

out into the world of professional art and landed work as a penciler, inker, and cover artist for various independent projects: *Road to Hell*, *Jalila: Savior of the City of All Faiths*, and *Masters of the Universe: Icons of Evil*. "That was the very first project my former agent got for me, and the most difficult," Neves said of *Masters of the Universe*. "I had to do three pages per day—pencil and inks." With ability like that, it wasn't long before Neves caught the eyes of other people in the world of comics, and, after he changed agents, his work landed the attention of Marvel editor Daniel Ketchum, who brought him in as the penciler for *X-Men: Worlds Apart*.

Today, Neves spends his time working on *The New Mutants*, which, he explained, is a bit different from drawing the *X-Men* limited series. "*Worlds Apart* focused on Storm. *The New Mutants* focuses on the group." It also presents new opportunities for artistic delights—and new challenges. "What I love most is drawing the faces. I'm happy with how the faces are! The most challenging [part] is transferring the emotion I feel when I read the script to the pages and representing all the subtleness every sequence of pictures has to have—but the more challenging, the merrier!" Although Neves has been working on other projects, for now, he said, his time is devoted exclusively to drawing *The New Mutants*, an arrangement that it doesn't seem he would want to change. "I already knew these characters," he said. "But not like I know [them] today! I'm learning a lot... I am loving drawing these characters."