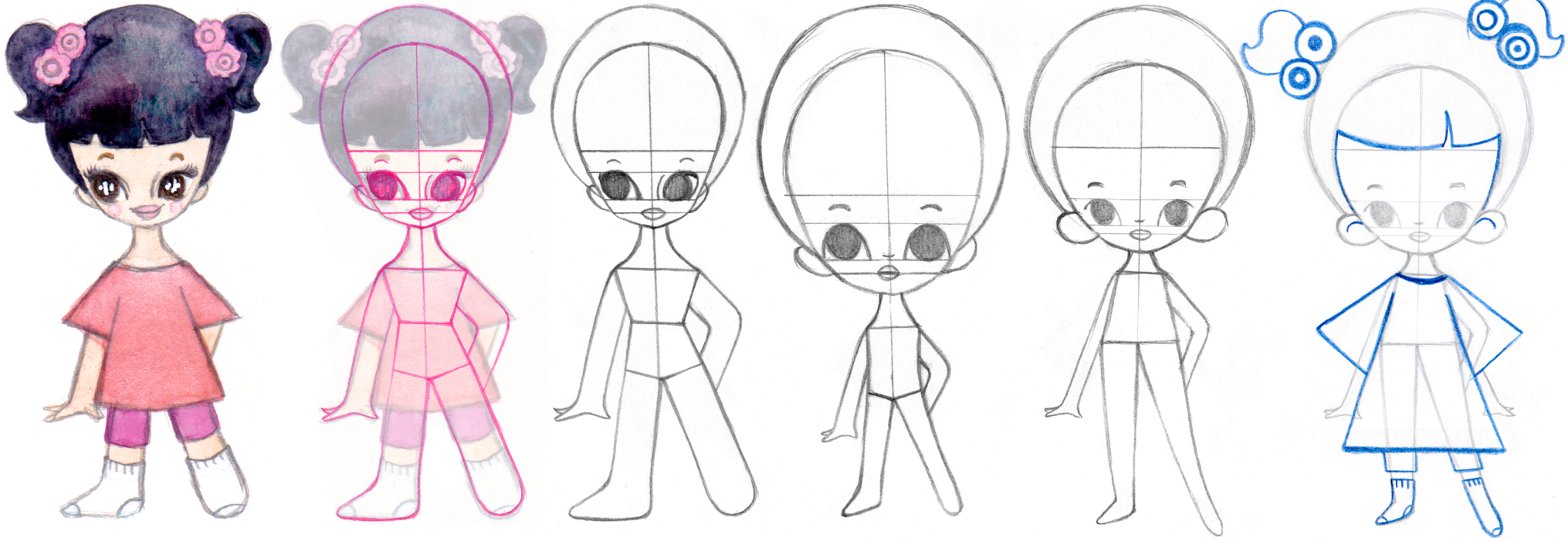


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IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO USE REFERENCES AND INSPIRATION AS AN ARTIST. HOW TO RESPECTFULLY BE INSPIRED BY OTHERS' WORK AND REFERENCE IT IN A WAY THAT FEELS COLLABORATIVE. THE REAL TRICK FOR ME WAS BECOMING A LOT MORE AWARE OF EXACTLY WHAT I LIKED. I LIKE ANIMALS AND CHILDREN WITH BIG EARS, I THINK IT'S CUTE. I LIKE SUPER LONG LEGS ON A FASHION ILLUSTRATION, I THINK IT'S DRAMATIC AND FUN. I LOVE LOTS OF SPARKLY CATCHLIGHTS IN EYES, THEY REMIND ME OF ANIME AND PURIKURA (JAPANESE PHOTO BOOTHS). USING A COLLECTION OF PREFERENCES IS A GREAT WAY TO NAVIGATE THROUGH LEARNING OTHER ART STYLES AND STILL REFLECTING YOUR OWN PERSONAL UNIQUENESS. THE MORE PREFERENCES YOU COLLECT AND THE MORE STYLES YOU TRY, THE BETTER YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BLEND YOUR INSPIRATION AND REFERENCES WITH A MORE UNIQUE AND PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE.



Starting with a sketch of Boo in a very Rune Naito style, I will step you through my workflow to adapt the style in a way that reflects more of my personal preferences.

To get a better understanding of the proportions I reverse engineer a skeleton, or a simple framework for head (+ face map) and body. This helps if you have multiple source images, otherwise there's a bit of guess work involved.

Once I have a map of the head/face and body I can see how everything is laid out and begin to make changes.

For younger and cuter characters I like to exaggerate their head size and shorten their bodies. I also tweaked a few facial features to match my own preferences. I stick close to the original framework, just focus on shifting proportion.

Next I start to shift features and refine some of the proportions. I added big ears, lifted the nose lips and chin, elongated the legs and adjusted the torso shape to widen the waist. The line for my bangs is also higher.

Now I'm going to characterize Boo again with her baubles, pigtails and nightshirt/tights and socks combo. I left in a nod to Rune Naito with the bauble design and highlighted Boo's large forehead by lifting the bangs.

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