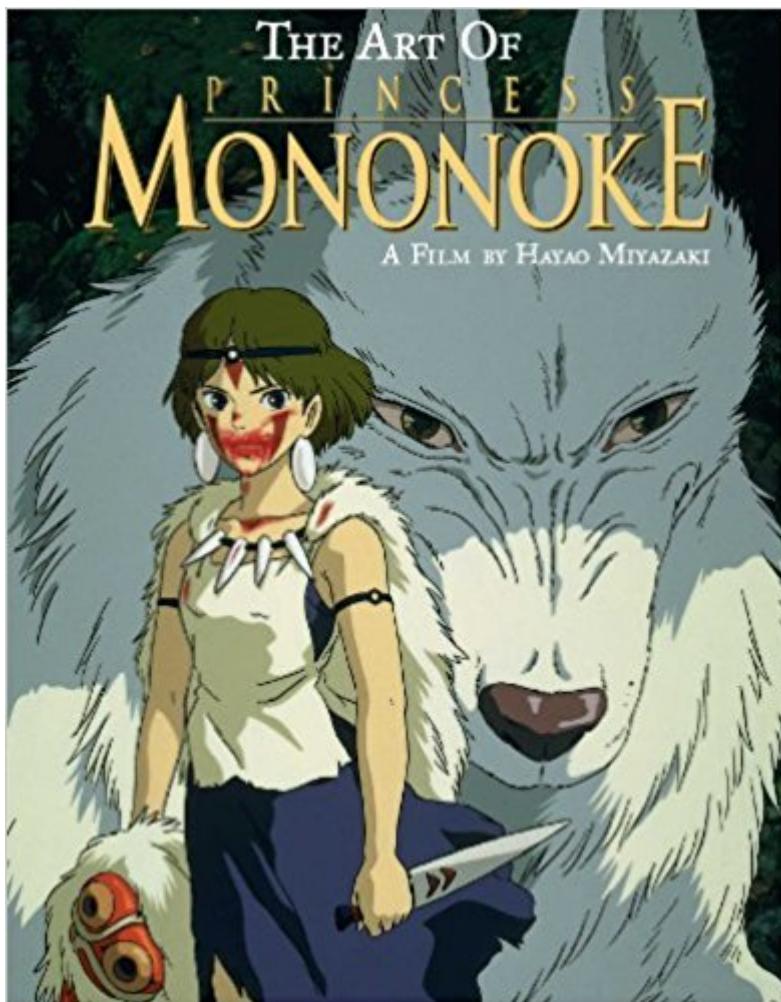


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# The Art Of Princess Mononoke



## Synopsis

The latest in the perennially popular line of Studio Ghibli artbooks, which include interviews, concept sketches, and finished animation cels from classics such as *Spirited Away* and *My Neighbor Totoro*. *Princess Mononoke* was the first Hayao Miyazaki film to break out into the American mainstream. The journey from initial idea to the big screen is captured here, in the hundreds of images from preliminary sketches to dynamic animation cels.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hayao Miyazaki is one of Japan's most beloved animation directors. In 2005 he was awarded the Venice International Film Festival's Golden Lion Award for Lifetime Achievement, and his Studio Ghibli received the festival's Osella Award for overall achievement in 2004. Miyazaki's films include *Spirited Away*, winner of the 2002 Academy Award® for Best Animated Feature Film, as well as *Castle in the Sky*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Kiki's Delivery Service*, *Princess Mononoke*, *Howl's Moving Castle*, and *Ponyo*, all of which have received great acclaim in the U.S. Miyazaki's other achievements include the highly regarded manga series *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* and *Starting Point: 1979-1996*, a collection of essays, interviews, and memoirs that chronicle his early career and the development of his theories of animation. Both are published in English by VIZ Media.

I've been waiting for this a long time! There are a couple of things I don't like and a couple I really enjoy. One of the issues I find is that, you can't actually see a character creation process; unlike

other Studio Ghibli / Viz Media books there is a very little of base creation content. You can see a few sketches of the main characters, and by "a few" I really mean "very little". On the other side, pictures are amazing, and every detail of them is very explained. I like to see there's a storyboard of the some scenes for the film and there's a nice "production diary" indicating the production process day by day.

This is a belated but welcome translation by publisher Viz Media of the original Japanese artbook *The Art of The Princess Mononoke* (The Art of the Princess Mononoke). Princess Mononoke and the accompanying artbook came out in 1997. By the way, that Japanese artbook is still being reprinted even after so many years. I've reviewed the original Japanese artbook before, and also the other English edition by Miramax Books. There's no point getting those books now because one's in Japanese and the other is out of print. Viz Media's books are widely available. The interior pages of this English edition is laid out exactly the same as the Japanese book, only the text have been replaced. One other difference is this book is a hardcover vs the textured dust jacket paperback Japanese edition. This 224-page hardcover has well reproduced pictures on low to no gloss paper. Very good. The book starts off with a few poems and an introduction by Hayao Miyazaki before it goes into the concept art. The concept art is a mixture of character designs, movie stills, environment art, storyboards and several computer animation screenshots. There are line drawings as well as the pencil and watercolour sketches of Hayao Miyazaki. There aren't many studios that still use watercolour sketches to create concept art nowadays so it's always refreshing to see the ones from Studio Ghibli. The sketches may look loose but they convey the action and settings clearly, and they look charming. The environment art are by Kazuo Oga and some of his artworks have also appeared in *Animation Artworks 2* (Oga Kazuo Animation Artworks 2). There are a lot of background paintings and not one of them are credited so it's impossible to tell if they are all from Kazuo Oga. Towards the back are three tutorials that look at how the film is made, such as the use of computers for compositing, colouring and backgrounds. That's followed by selected storyboards. Finally there's a 3-year production diary that records down the milestones and activities. Even things like Hayao Miyazaki going for his acupuncture sessions are also recorded. Amusing. Just like other Studio Ghibli artbooks, this is a wonderful companion to the film. Highly recommended to fans of Princess Mononoke and Studio Ghibli.

If you love Miyazaki's fine film, you will love this book. It was the one I was unable to find a copy of for a long time and was thrilled when it was reprinted. I highly recommend all of the art books that

represent Miyazaki's films, including the ones accompanying the works he wrote screenplays for but did not direct ("The Secret World of Arrietty", "From Up On Poppy Hill"). The books are all well done and feature a large amount of material relating to how the films were made, drawings, sketches and beautiful art from the films plus a full copy of the script. I am pleased to own art books for "Spirited Away", "Howl's Moving Castle", "My Neighbor Totoro" and "The Wind Rises" as well as most of the other art books in this series. The film's never disappoint and neither do these books. If you love Miyazaki's films they way I do, you owe it to yourself to eventually buy them all. Each one is a revelation into the process of the fine animation only Studio Ghibli creates. In another note, Joe Hisashi's scores for these films are also wonderful and well worth having. His music for "Princess Mononoke" is gorgeous.

Great pics! Clear and incredibly creative. Good to have a little inner peak at the designs behind the making of the character.

Amazing art book, but wish there was more drawings and less pictures from the movie.

I came across this book while shopping for Christmas. The recipient is an artist who loves the movie so I figured it would be perfect. Once I ordered it it came in a matter of days, really fast shipping! I saw pictures of the book online but it looks so much better in person!! It is such a beautiful book and cannot wait to give it to the person for Christmas!

I adore art books, especially those loaded to the brim with concept art. This book has very little of that, but the way it shows how each scene was set up individually was interesting to read about. This book is a must for fans of the movie, or the man behind it.

The Art of Princess Mononoke is a great art book for any collection. If you are a fan of Hayao Miyazaki's films then I think you will like this art book. It shows the storyboards along with some of the work that was done with CG. Over all I enjoyed it and it sits close to my desk with my other art books, so I can look through them for idea or references when I need to.

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