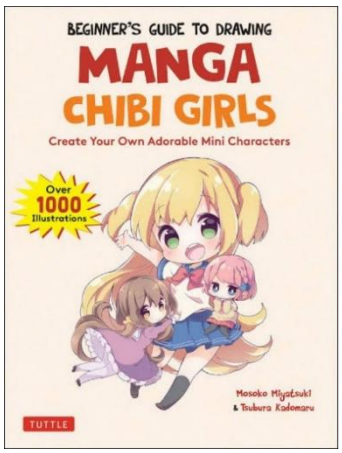
KOLEKTIF: Jurnal Pendidikan, Pengajaran, dan Pembelajaran
Volume 1 (4), June 2025, 215-218
ISSN: 3063-6949 (Online); ISSN: 3063-637X (Print)
Available online: https://e-journal.alekra.id/index.php/kolektif

Mastering the Art of Chibi: A Comprehensive Review of *"Beginner's Guide to Drawing Manga Chibi Girls"*

Gina Fajri Aulia
Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Indonesia
Email: ginafajriaulia@upi.edu



Beginner's Guide to Drawing Manga Chibi Girls: Create Your Own Adorable Mini Characters

Authors	: Mosoko Miyatsuki, Tsubara Kodomaru
Year	: 2021
Publisher	: Tuttle Publishing
Number of Pages	: 184 pages
Language	: English
ISBN	: 978-480-531-613-9

The book "*Beginner's Guide To Drawing Manga Chibi Girls*" is a comprehensive guide aimed at beginner artists who want to learn how to draw female characters in the chibi manga style. Chibi is a Japanese word that means "short person," and this term is popular among manga and anime fans (Musnur & Faiz, 2019). The chibi character style is an art style where characters have large heads and small or tiny bodies, making them appear cuter and more appealing to the target audience (Shaula & Hasyim, 2017). In manga, this character style is primarily displayed in small panels that occupy one-eighth to one-sixth of a page and are often placed in the lower left corner, specifically in positions between cliff-hangers (Berndt, 2021). The chibi character art style is also commonly used as mascots to build a positive image in the eyes of the public by creating characters in 2D and 3D forms, combining movement and expressing emotions (Sookkaew et al., 2023). With a systematic approach, this book offers over 1,000 examples of works as references, allowing readers to explore various illustration variations. This book has become a bestseller in the hobby category on the periplus.com platform, demonstrating its popularity and relevance among art enthusiasts. Through this book, readers can learn various aspects of drawing, including anatomy, proportions, design, gesture, pose, sketching techniques, and shading techniques.

This book is designed as a starting point for those who are just beginning their drawing art journey. With detailed and easy-to-understand explanations, this book is not only aimed at experienced artists but also at beginners who want to develop their skills in drawing chibi characters.

© The Author. Published by CV ALFA EDU KARYA.
This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

The main theme presented is a systematic guide to creating attractive chibi character illustrations, focusing on effective manga drawing techniques. Although this book is highly informative, readers are advised to have a basic knowledge of drawing to maximize their understanding and application of the provided guide. The author's writing style in this book is casual and tutorial, making it accessible to readers from various backgrounds. The characterization in this book is descriptive, with clear explanations of each step in the drawing process. The main strength of this book lies in its comprehensive and systematic guidance, as well as the detailed step-by-step instructions that make it easy for readers to follow the tutorials. However, a noted weakness is that this book may require basic drawing knowledge to fully understand and utilize the guide. The message conveyed in this book is that anyone can draw if they have the intention to learn, encouraging readers to keep practicing and developing their skills.

Personally, "*Beginner's Guide To Drawing Manga Chibi Girls*" has provided a deep understanding of the art of drawing chibi characters. This book significantly contributes to helping readers produce attractive and quality illustrations. My favorite part is the last chapter titled 'Designing Overall Chibi Characters,' where the author discusses how to combine all the elements learned to create a complete and appealing chibi character. The step-by-step instructions provided, along with a deep understanding of techniques and design elements, make this section very memorable. This book not only meets my expectations but also exceeds my hopes in terms of information and practice.

This book is an excellent resource for anyone who is enthusiastic in drawing chibi figures because it provides insightful advice for both novice and seasoned artists. It is an approachable and entertaining manual for readers who want to improve their abilities in this endearing art form because of its step-by-step methodology, captivating illustrations, and unambiguous directions. However, reviewers' helpful criticism has shown that there is space for development. These revelations give the writers and publishers the chance to improve the book even more, raising its standard and improving the reading experience. Including a comparison of the chibi art style to other art forms, including realistic, semi-realistic, or classic manga, is one noteworthy recommendation. By placing chibi images within the broader context of visual art, such comparisons could provide readers with a more comprehensive artistic framework and aid in their understanding of the distinctive qualities of these illustrations. For instance, a discussion of how chibi characters differ from other styles in terms of their exaggerated proportions, simplified features, and emotional expressiveness could help readers better understand the approaches used. In addition to increasing the book's educational value, this inclusion would inspire students to experiment and explore various styles, promoting their development as adaptable artists.

Reviewers have also noted the possibility of adding more sophisticated methods to the book's material, like shading, texturing, and digital tools designed especially for chibi art. Although the book does a great job of covering the fundamentals, tackling these more complex topics would appeal to a larger audience, which would include those looking to hone their craft even more. Interactive components that let readers put what they've learned into practice, such tasks or challenges, may help improve reader

engagement and retention. The writers and publishers may turn an already inspirational manual into a genuinely complete one by incorporating these suggestions into an updated edition. This would increase the book's appeal to a wider range of readers and cement its position as a go-to source for both seasoned and aspiring artists.

In conclusion, even while this book is a great resource for anyone wishing to improve their ability to draw chibi manga characters, adding the reviewers' recommendations would greatly increase its impact. The book might offer a more comprehensive, richer learning experience by incorporating advanced approaches, comparative analysis, and interactive elements. Currently, this resource is motivating and valuable, and with careful improvements, it might become the authoritative reference for chibi art.

Chapter 1. Let's Start with the Basics

This first chapter serves as an introduction for readers to understand the structure and properties of chibi characters. The author explains the basic elements that make up chibi characters, including body proportions, shapes, and styles. Readers are invited to recognize the distinctive features of chibi characters, such as large heads, expressive eyes, and small bodies. Through illustrations and examples, the author provides guidance on how to start sketching chibi characters correctly. This chapter also includes practical exercises that encourage readers to experiment with various poses and expressions, building a strong foundation for the following chapters.

Chapter 2. Character with a 2.5 Head-to-Body Ratio

In the second chapter, the author discusses specific techniques for creating accurate and appealing body proportions. Readers are taught about the common body ratios used in drawing chibi characters, including the comparison between the head and body. The author offers tips on how to adjust proportions to create unique and interesting characters, as well as how to avoid common mistakes in drawing. Using diagrams and visual examples, this chapter helps readers understand the importance of proportions in creating balanced and aesthetically pleasing characters.

Chapter 3. Drawing Characters with Different Head-to-Body Ratios

This chapter provides an in-depth guide on how to create chibi character heads with the correct proportions. The author explains that large and exaggerated heads are a hallmark of the chibi style and provides detailed steps for drawing heads with appropriate proportions. Readers are taught about the basic shapes of heads, the placement of facial features, and how to add details that make characters appear more lively. With exercises designed to enhance drawing skills, this chapter is crucial for readers who want to master the art of drawing chibi characters.

Chapter 4. Drawing Chibi Faces

In this chapter, the focus shifts to the details of the character's face. The author provides tips and tricks on how to create expressive and appealing faces, including how to draw eyes, noses, and mouths. Readers are taught about various face shapes and how each

can affect the character's expression. The author also discusses the importance of symmetry and proportions in creating balanced faces. With clear illustrative examples, this chapter helps readers understand how facial details can add depth and character to their drawings.

Chapter 5. Expressing Chibi Emotions

This chapter explains how emotions can be conveyed to chibi characters through different drawing techniques. The author emphasizes the importance of emotions in creating lively and interactive characters. Readers are taught about various facial expressions and how to depict feelings such as happiness, sadness, anger, and surprise. Using visual examples and practical exercises, this chapter helps readers understand how emotions can influence character design and how to express them effectively in their drawings.

Chapter 6. Inside the Artist's Studio

In this final chapter, the author discusses how to combine all the elements learned previously to create a complete and appealing chibi character. The author provides step-by-step instructions on how to design a character from start to finish, including color selection, clothing, and accessories. Additionally, this chapter offers a deep understanding of the techniques and design elements used in the art of drawing chibi characters. Readers are encouraged to apply all the skills they have learned to create unique and characterful chibi characters, as well as to experiment with their own styles and techniques.

References

Berndt, J. (2021). More Mangaesque than the Manga: "Cartooning" in the Kimetsu no Yaiba Anime. *Transcommunication*, *8*(2), 171–178. https://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:su:diva-196835

Musnur, I., & Faiz, M. (2019). Analisis Penyajian Karakter dan Alur Cerita pada Komik Vulcaman-Z. *Jurnal Narada*, *6*(2).

Shaula, D. F., & Hasyim, N. (2017). Menanamkan Konsep Tata Krama pada Anak melalui Perancangan Game Edukasi. *Jurnal Informatika Upgris*, *3*(1). https://doi.org/10.26877/JIU.V3I1.1609

Sookkaew, J., Chaikaew, N., & Saephoo, P. (2023). Phuket mascot design from based on cultural value. *Indonesian Journal of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science*, *29*(2), 788–796. https://doi.org/10.11591/ijeecs.v29.i2.pp788-796