

Zombie

NAME: Kim Jones

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Kim is a 36-year-old freelance designer from Atlanta, GA, who has been working as a graphic designer for a little over ten years, specialising in book design: "A couple of years ago I started doing art shows based on my Photoshop work. That's where this Zombie piece originated, for a multi-artist horror art show." *Zombie* started as a scanned rough sketch based on a mummified head. "I layered the sketch with a silo of a skull image for a better shape and then used several layers of painting using rough brushes, erasers and masks," says Kim. "I colour burned and multiplied the layers."



MUMMIFICATION: "I blended (colour burned and multiplied) the layers, then grouped it and duped it for the multiple heads"



MOONS: "I take macro photos of objects and then look at the photo to try and see if there's something logical there"

Something logical

NAME: Darya Balova

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Darya Balova originally started out as programmer after university, but soon discovered that design was a far more interesting option. "I bought a digital camera and always use macro photos as a background. It's very important to notice something beautiful in ordinary things and macro helps very much," explains Darya. "You can see a lot of small and interesting details that aren't seen with the naked eye. Nature is the best designer in the world."

Darya takes photos of everything from dry flowers, torn papers and old cans: "I have a great collection of different useless things, from old radio details to rusted keys, but most of all I like natural objects and I collect them in boxes. Those who live with me don't understand."

With the macro photos as a base, Darya takes a look at the photos and tries to find something logical there: "After I've found an idea, I use Photoshop CS2 and draw in some parts from other photos or hand draw objects using my Wacom tablet. My favourite feature in Photoshop is the layer Blending Modes. I think it helps to make fantastic things using ordinary pictures. Or you can just improve some colours and the results will be great."

Darya has set up a design studio called ORI: "Each project or person inside our studio is named with the letter from the Greek alphabet (zeta ori, alpha ori, gamma ori and so on). In science, all stars are called the same way (the letter from the Greek alphabet, then letters from its constellation). By the way, we're all fond of space very much!"

From your mind to your heart

NAME: Ilias Sounas

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Ilias is a freelance illustrator and 2D animator from Athens, Greece. "I've been drawing since I was a kid at school, but I never thought of becoming a professional illustrator. My passion for drawing in pencil and later creating in Photoshop made me give up my university studies in History and Ancient Greek Philosophy," Ilias tells us.

From the first time he used Photoshop 7, Ilias realised its limitless capabilities and it soon became his favourite program. "My images are usually a result of a combination of applications and scanned textures. In this image, most of the shape elements are inspired by nature and were created in Illustrator with different brush settings for interesting stroke weights," explains Ilias. "I like using striking colours and strong lights using decades of layers with different Blending Modes and a lot of textures in Masking Mode for a more interesting look."

INSPIRATION: "Most of the shape elements are inspired by nature and were created in Illustrator with different brush settings for interesting stroke weights"



VINO: "It's very important to notice something beautiful in ordinary things and macro helps very much"



SKORECHNIK: "I use my old Sony R1 camera to take my macro shots. It's very old now but it gives me exactly what I want"

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