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Sketches: Dross Prowler

Magic Arcana
Monday, February 2, 2004

Welcome to another edition of [Sketches](#). This week we take an look at the creation of *Mirrodin's Dross Prowler* by Mike Sutfin.

1. Art Description

The instructions given to the artist were short and sweet:

"A sneaky Nim in the shadows."

That is what you call "artistic license," folks. The Nim have a characteristic look -- the facial plate-hood covering the eyes and forehead, the spike-like jutting teeth -- but this is about as minimalistic as art descriptions get.

Sutfin, who has illustrated such iconic classics as *Jhovall Queen*, *Cateran Overlord*, *Tsabo Tavoc*, *Exalted Angel*, and *Darksteel's Heartseeker*, is a master of bringing rich detail to his subjects. For this kind of artist, sometimes a light touch on the art description generates great results.

2. Sketch

Mr. Sutfin came up with this initial sketch for the *Dross Prowler*, which in playtest was called "Nim Cutthroat":

Dross Prowler sketch

As you can see, the art team made a strong choice in providing such a slim description. Sutfin filled the frame with complexity and detail that a zombie has rarely enjoyed. Changes were not recommended by the **Magic** art team.

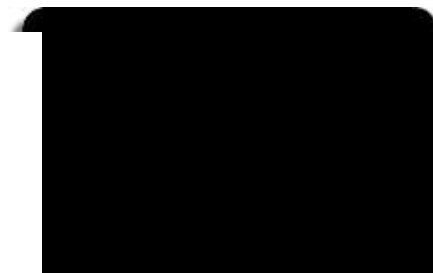
3. Final Art

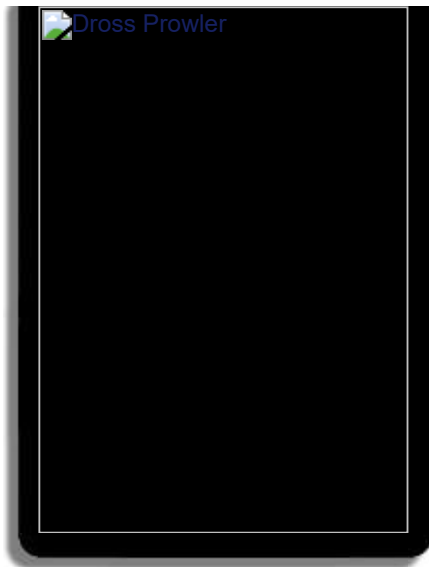
Here is the final art for *Dross Prowler*. Note especially the miniature necrogen chimneys sprouting from its back, and the detail and care taken in its creepily composite ear-structure.

Dross Prowler final art

4. Card

Finally, here is the card as you can see it in booster packs.





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