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Sketches: Orochi Hatchery

Magic Arcana
Thursday, October 28, 2004

Welcome to another edition of [Sketches!](#) *Champions of Kamigawa's Orochi Hatchery* by veteran **Magic** artist Alex Horley-Orlandelli. Let's look behind the scenes of the creation of that piece. But first, some background on Alex's previous work.

Artist Portfolio

Alex Horley-Orlandelli is a prolific fantasy/horror and comic artist who has contributed 40+ pieces of **Magic** card art since *Apocalypse*. You can see his work on such cards as [Quicksilver Dagger](#), [Cephalid Vandal](#), [Decree of Savagery](#), [Nantuko Vigilante](#), [Grafted Wargear](#), and [Myr Incubator](#), among many others.



Art Description

The first step of the creation of a card's art is its art description. The art description tells the artist what the card will do, what its flavor is, and what the mood of the illustration should be. Here were the instructions given to Alex for [Orochi Hatchery](#) (called "Orochi Incubator" during playtest):

- Color: (artifact)*
- Location: Snakefolk village*
- Action: Show a large, vaguely egg-shaped structure in which the orochi (snakefolk) incubate their young.*
- Focus: On the egg incubator*

Next the artist submits one or more sketches with his vision of the art description.

Sketch

Here's the initial sketch submitted for "Orochi Incubator":

Orochi Hatchery sketch

The art team wanted the egg-structure to have an indication of an openable aperture or "escape hatch" at the top of the pod. The art team also wanted the scale of the egg-pod to be represented, perhaps by showing a small orochi figure next to it. Here's Alex's second sketch representing these changes.

Orochi Hatchery sketch 2

Final Art

With that change made, Alex was ready to expand the sketches into a full **Magic**-scale canvas and add color for the final art. Here's the finished piece.



Finished Card

And here's how you can see the card in its final state, in booster packs of *Champions of Kamigawa*.



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