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Art Description Links

Magic Arcana
 Thursday, April 7, 2005

We've seen on Magic Arcana that a card's art is developed according to an art description. Sometimes the art description contains numbered links to other pieces of completed card art, to give the artist a good frame of reference.

Let's look at an example art description from *Betrayers of Kamigawa* -- but we're not going to tell you what card is being described yet.

Show a green-aligned priestess similar to art ID #82624, as a "school" of the strange spirit-fish creatures from art IDs 80620 and 82612 swim in an upward spiral around her. The fish-things are iridescent green, gold, and blue and full of life giving energy. They're magically nourishing the priestess.

The initial sketch, created by **Magic** art workhorse [Greg Staples](#), gives a sense of the kinetic energy of the final piece, but not enough detail to recognize the other cards mentioned in the art description.



Sketch by Greg Staples

Let's look at each piece of art referenced in the art description one by one, right out of Multiverse, **Magic's** internal card database.

Art ID #80620

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Azusa, Lost but Seeking art by Todd Lockwood

This is the green-aligned priestess mentioned in the art description: the amazing [Azusa, Lost but Seeking](#) by Todd Lockwood. It seems likely we have a green card on our hands, and possibly a spell effect.

Art ID #82612



Teller of Tales art by Jim Murray

The art description points out "spirit-fish creatures" in the piece above, Jim Murray's [Teller of Tales](#). The description means in particular the fishlike "energy objects" or "orbits" floating around the teller (which is the mouthy spirit in the center).

Art ID #82624

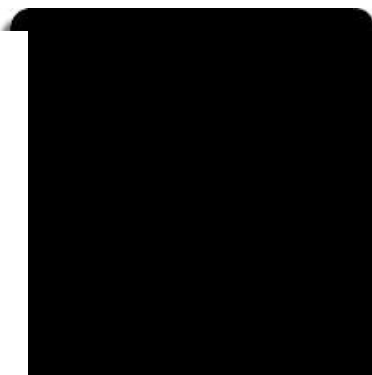


Eerie Procession art by Jim Murray

This is the last piece referred to in the description -- **Eerie Procession** also by Jim Murray. These fishlike spirits march around in an incomprehensible mystical ceremony, tutoring up an Arcane spell for the caster.

Final Art

Greg Staples took inspiration from all three of those pieces to create the final image. It's a great piece!





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