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Sketches: Evermind

Magic Arcana
 Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Welcome to another edition of [Sketches](#)! Today we take a look behind the scenes of the creation of that uncastable instant from *Saviors of Kamigawa*, **Evermind**. But first, some background on the artist, Matt Thompson.

Artist Portfolio

Artist [Matt Thompson](#) has contributed over twenty pieces of **Magic** card art since 2001's *Onslaught* set. You can see his work on such cards as *Root Sliver*, *Final Punishment*, *Consume Spirit*, *Serum Powder*, *Curse of the Fire Penguin*, *Uncontrollable Anger*, and *Katagi, War's Wage*, 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 Matt for **Evermind**:

- Color: Blue*
- Location: Your choice*
- Action: This spell represents spirit-world magical spell that enables you to learn one thing "automatically" while doing another. How to represent this is up to you. For example, you could show a blue-aligned female jushi (wizard) sleeping while a weird little blue kami of your design floats above her, as though studying her. Come up with something that you think makes the most interesting/cool image.*
- Focus: The magical learning*
- Mood: It pays to be observant.*
- Notes: It could be abstract if that direction works better.*

(Keep in mind that "Notes" field!) The next step is for the artist to submit sketches of his or her vision of the art description.

Sketches

Here are Matt's concept sketches submitted for **Evermind**:

Evermind sketch 1

Evermind sketch 1 by Matt Thompson



Evermind sketch 2 by Matt Thompson

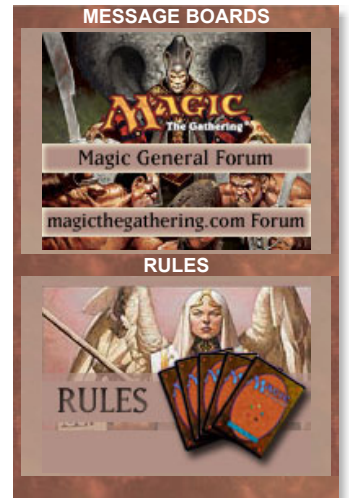
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Evermind is a very abstract spell -- it isn't castable, only spliceable to get its effect. As you can see, Matt went a very abstract direction with his sketches.

The art team had a wealth of good ideas to choose from here; they liked both the first and third sketch (but check out the hand lifting off the jushi's *hair* in number two!). The first sketch followed closely to the suggestion in the art description, but in the end the art team favored the alien, floating eye-hands in number three.

Final Art

Matt submitted this final art.



Evermind final art by Matt Thompson

An interesting addition here in the final art is the blindfold over the jushi's eyes -- an indication of the mage's "automatic" (i.e., non-spellcasting) learning.

Finished Card

And here's the card in its final state, as you can see in booster packs of *Saviors of Kamigawa*. Draw some cards with uncastable spells (and a little help from Matt Thompson) with **Evermind**!



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