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Sketches: Omnibian

Magic Arcana
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Welcome to another edition of [Sketches](#)! Today we take a look at a new goodie from *Dissension* in [Omnibian](#). But first, some background on the artist, Jim Nelson.

Artist Portfolio

Artist [Jim Nelson](#) has contributed over ninety illustrations for **Magic** cards during his tenure, having worked on cards in almost every block since *Tempest*. You can see his work on cards such as [Foul Imp](#), [Metathran Elite](#), [Caves of Koilos](#), [Petradon](#), [Mythic Proportions](#), [Summoner's Egg](#), [Nezumi Graverobber](#), [Belltower Sphinx](#) and [Putrefy](#), 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 Jim for [Omnibian](#):

Color: Green-Blue (G/U guild)

Location: Your choice

Action: Show a huge slick-skinned frog creature, about the size of a cow, with three bulging eyes instead of the usual two. This strange Simic mutant has the ability to transfer its own genetic pattern through its long elastic tongue. Creatures that it hits with its tongue temporarily assume the frog's general size and shape.

Focus: The three-eyed frog mutant

Notes: You may also choose to show the frog transforming another creature. If you do, it would be best to choose a creature that is in definite contrast to the size and shape of the frog.

The next step is for the artist to submit sketches of his or her vision of the art description.

Sketches

Here's Jim's initial sketch submitted for [Omnibian](#):

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Omnibian sketch by Jim Nelson

Jim wanted to try the frog without showing the DNA-transferring extendo-tongue; he was worried the tongue just might look too silly on the card. So he submitted the sketch with a straight frog pose, and left in the three-eyed detail.

The creative team liked the frog as-is, so they had Jim submit the full-color final art.

Final Art

Jim submitted this final art. Note the [cytoplasts](#) on the frog's back and under its chin. Not quite enough to give this oversized amphibian the "Mutant" creature type, but an indication of its Simic experimental origins.



Omnibian final art by Jim Nelson

Finished Card

Here's the card in its final state, as you'll see in booster packs of *Dissension*. Didn't rip one at the prerelease? You'll get another shot at the [release tournaments](#)!



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