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Sketches: Arctic Nishoba

Magic Arcana
 Thursday, July 20, 2006

Welcome to another edition of [Sketches](#)! Today we look at the process behind illustrating that raging green cat warrior, [Arctic Nishoba](#). But first, some background on the artist, Dave Kendall.

Artist Portfolio

Artist and illustrator [Dave Kendall](#) is a new addition to the world of **Magic** illustration as of *Coldsnap*. Welcome, Dave! His work can be seen on [Balduvian Fallen](#), [Rimebound Dead](#), and today's card, [Arctic Nishoba](#).

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 Dave for [Arctic Nishoba](#):

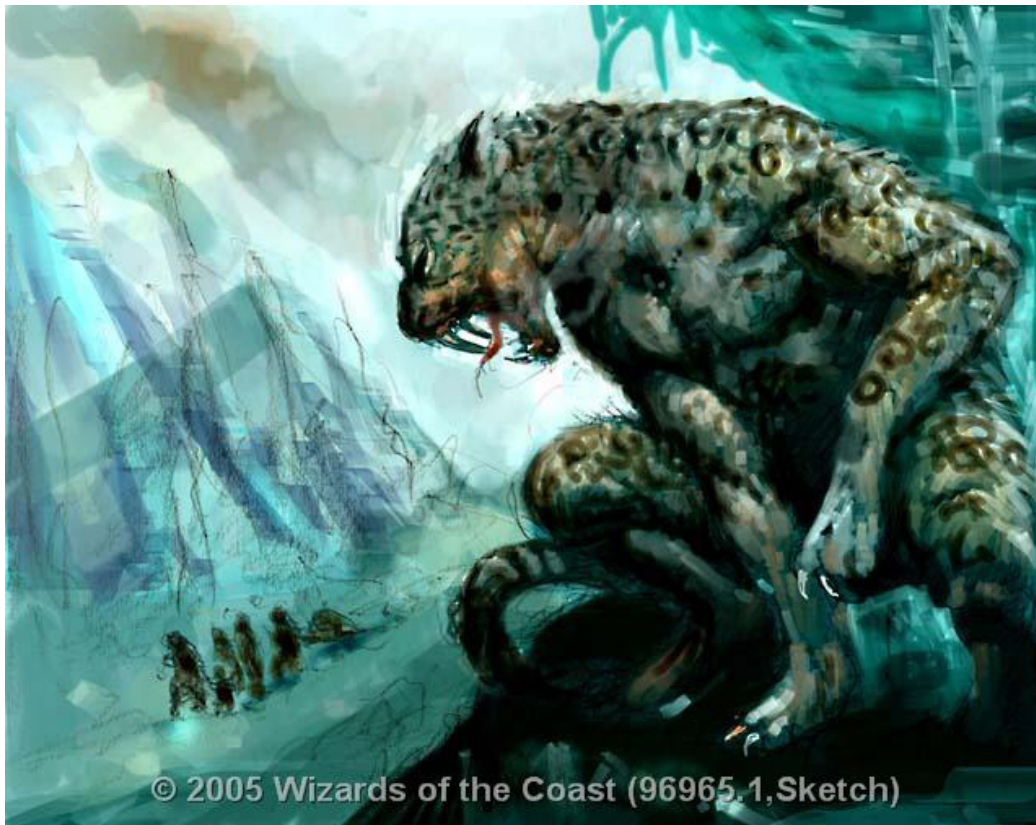
- Color: Green*
- Location: Ice Age Setting*
- Action: A nishoba, a burly white-tiger-humanoid-thing. This one is spotted like a snow-leopard.*
- Focus: The nishoba*
- Mood: Ferocity of an animal, intelligence of a man.*
- Notes: See reference image for nishoba.*

The reference image provided to Dave was *Invasion's Sabertooth Nishoba*.

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

Sketches

Here's Dave's initial sketch submitted for [Arctic Nishoba](#):



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Arctic Nishoba sketch by Dave Kendall

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Dave has created a nice and ominous scene, showing the nishoba lurking on a high ice ridge, scouting the movements of arctic passersby. The creative team wanted to show more clothing and armor on the nishoba—this is a vicious combatant but also a sentient creature.



Arctic Nishoba sketch by Dave Kendall

Many artists provide more than one sketch during a card's illustration, to show a couple of directions they could go in the final. Here the nishoba is shown more armored as directed. The creative team preferred the original scene in sketch "B." This piece was ready for final art.

Final Art

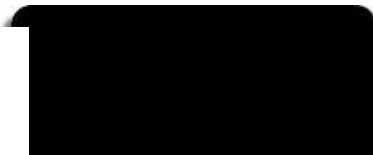
Dave submitted this final art.



Arctic Nishoba art by Dave Kendall

Finished Card

Here's the card in its final state, as you can find in booster packs of *Coldsnap*. Get ready to pounce on some ice travelers (with a little help from Dave Kendall) at the release events!





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