



Reference vs. Copying

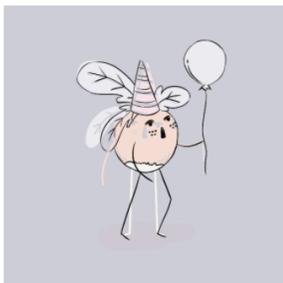
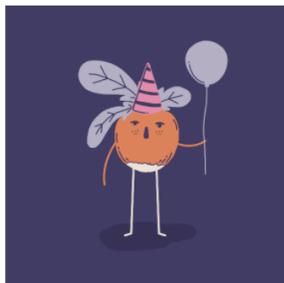
Don't use someone else's art and say it is yours! That will be considered copying art, and that is a big legal problem in the art world.



Traced If you lower the opacity of someone's artwork and trace over it, even if you change things like the way the hair is drawn or add things to it, it's still a traced artwork. You shouldn't post your traced art and claim it as your own.



Highly Referenced. Highly referencing is when you look at someone's work and try to duplicate it line for line. Even if you change things slightly, it shouldn't be posted, or at least you should contact the artist for permission. Highly referenced is a great learning tool that helps you see how an artist does things. It can even help by adding some of their style elements to your own, but it shouldn't be posted without permission.



Referenced Referencing is when you look at someone's work and use a few key elements of the original to make your own art. You can still see where the influence came from, but it also has its own twist. You should still credit the artist, depending on how closely it resembles the original.

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How To Use References

It is also important to understand how to use references. You are looking at the structure and feel of the figure and not the exact translation of that figure.



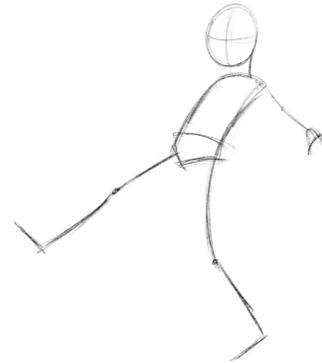
Reference

A starting point, study what works and what could be stronger if pushed and tweaked.



Direct Copy

Traced, copied, lifeless.
AVOID THIS METHOD!



Original Work

Your unique interpretation of the reference! Not cookie-cutter or rotoscoped. Something to build on and keep improving your *new* starting point. **This is how you should approach a reference photo!**

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Daphne's Reference Example



Reference

My character is a mix between a cat and a human so I knew I wanted their movements to be cat-like. To do so, I picked a picture of a cat to reference. Picking an animal as a reference for a humanoid character pose was very challenging, as the animal's structure is very different from a human's.



Structure

I first translated the cat into a human body structure, while maintaining the line of action of the reference photo.



Original Sketch

I drew my character details over the body structure, altering the pose to make it more natural for my character.



Original Work

Finished my work with lineart and color!