Contents

Tutor Introduction	7
Study Unit 1: What is a Chibi?	**9**
Thinking Kawaii	10
Study Unit 2: Equipment & Art Supplies	**11**
Study Unit 3: Anatomy	
Proportions	**13**
Head (& Potatoes)	15
Eyes	19
Noses	24
Cheeks & Ears	25
Mouths	27
Assignment 1	***28***
Expressions & Emotion	30
Putting the head together	33
Hair	37
Assignment 2	***43***
Torso	45
Legs	49
Arms	52
Feet	57
Hands	59
Putting the body together	65
Assignment 3	***79***
Moving chibis	81
Cut out and keep template	88

©London Art College 2021

Study Unit 4: Dressing your chibis **93**

Adding clothing details 98

Fabric folds 111

Accessories 112

Assignment 4 ***115***

Study Unit 5: Chibi Pets **117**

Step - by – Step 123

Study Unit 6: Colour **129**

Basic Colour Theory 130

Shading & shadows 132

Traditional Shading - Pencil Crayons 136

Digital Shading – Gimp 156

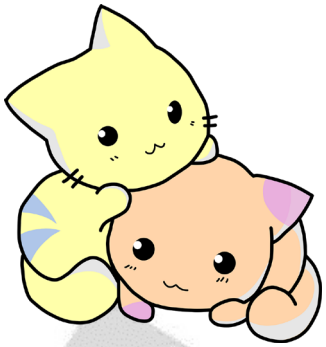
Assignment 5 ***169***

Study Unit 7: Movie Character **171**

Assignment 6 *173*

©London Art College 2021

STUDY UNIT 1: WHAT IS A CHIBI?



WHAT IS A CHIBI?

Wikipedia provides us with the following definition:

*"**Chibi** (ちび or チビ) is a Japanese slang word describing something short (a thing, an animal or a person). The term is widely used to describe a specific style of caricature where characters are drawn in an exaggerated way: small and chubby, with stubby limbs and oversized heads. This style of artwork, also known as **super deformed**, has since found its way into anime and manga fandom through its usage in manga works."*

When I think about Chibis, one word comes to mind… Kawaii!

What is Kawaii, you ask? ***Kawaii*** (Japanese: かわいい or 可愛い, 'lovely', 'loveable', 'cute', or 'adorable') is the culture of cuteness in Japan. It can refer to items, humans and non-humans that are charming, vulnerable, shy, and childlike. Examples include cute handwriting, certain genres of manga, and characters like Hello Kitty and Pikachu.

The cuteness culture, or *kawaii* aesthetic, has become a prominent aspect of Japanese popular culture, entertainment, clothing, food, toys, personal appearance, and mannerisms.

So, when creating Chibis, your number one objective, motivation & inspiration is cute! Start thinking **Kawaii**.

©London Art College 2021

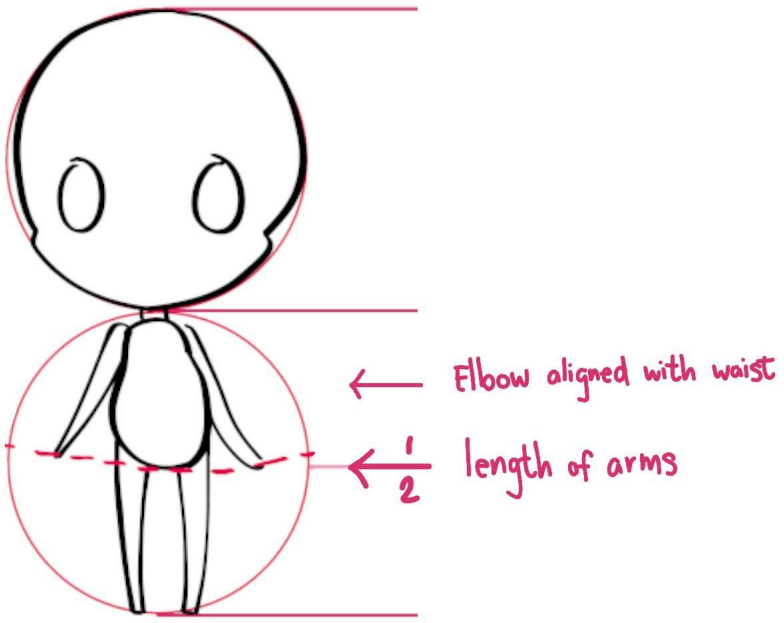
ARMS

Before we discuss some different arm styles to fit with both glossy & traditional chibis, let's get our overall proportions correct first.

I use a circular line from the crotch as a guide for the length of my arms. You can make your arms a bit longer by adding the hands onto this, or, you can include the hands in the length, it is totally up to you & based purely on your preference.

Mine are usually shorter because that's the style that appeals to me most, but I'm not set in stone on this.
Longer arms can make the characters appear older or give them a croquis feel, because it elongates the arms and makes them more elegant. (For those who are unfamiliar with the term croquis, it is the style of illustration that is used in fashion design, where the characters are stretched out of proportion to appear much taller than traditional 'human' proportions.)

The elbow is placed approximately half way the entire arm length. You can use the waist as a guideline here. (ps. chibis don't have obvious waists like croquis, they are much rounder & their bodies are shaped like avocados, so you may need to do a little guesswork) It is still a great thing to remember to help with your proportions.



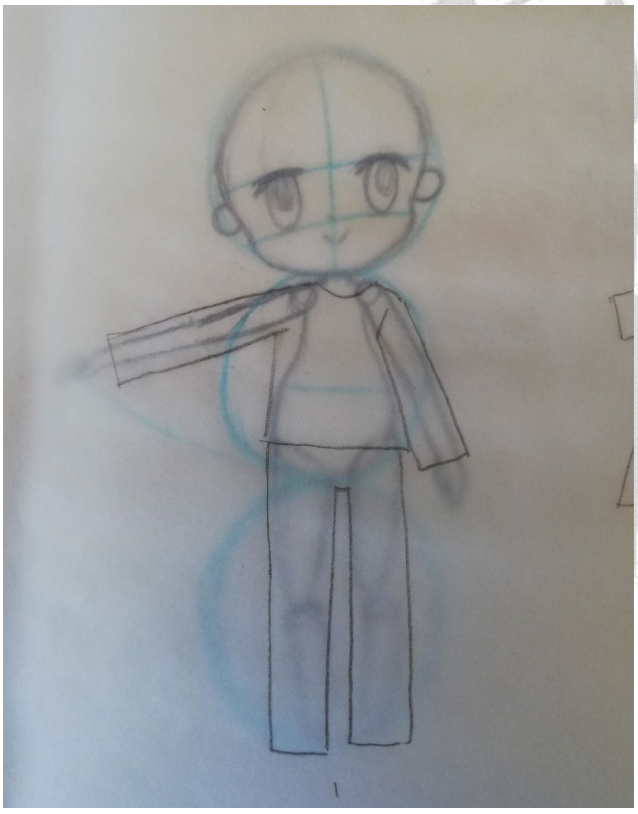
©London Art College 2021

I've drawn up my little chibi in my sketchbook.

You know the drill, I started with my blue construction lines with my blue pilot, ENO clutch pencil and bought in the character drawing using a regular HB.

Remember we spoke about how traditional chibi arms can be longer? I did that in this little drawing.

Now, using a piece of tracing paper over my drawing, I roughly sketched in a long-sleeved shirt and a pair of pants.



Tracing paper is an excellent way to create multiple clothing items for your character without redrawing the chibi every time. Keep them in a sketchbook or a folder. (You could even stick an envelope in your sketchbook & place all tracing paper outfits inside to use for future creations or inspiration)

NB: My clothing shapes are FLAT!

Try to imagine you are creating a paper dress up doll. There are no creases, folds or texture.

Digital Students: This can easily be achieved by using layers.

©London Art College 2021