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tips from a  
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artist



# Art Thief

Heist #4

## DRAW AN ALIEN IN SHADOW

and learn chiaroscuro



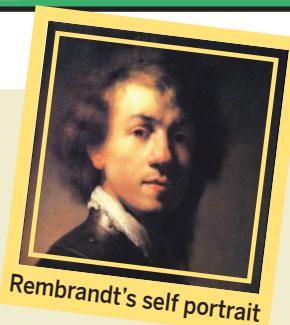
DIFFICULTY METER

### What you need

Pencil, eraser, felt tip pen, wide markers

### What is chiaroscuro?

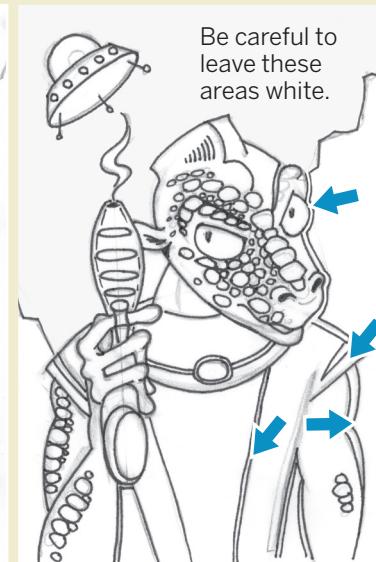
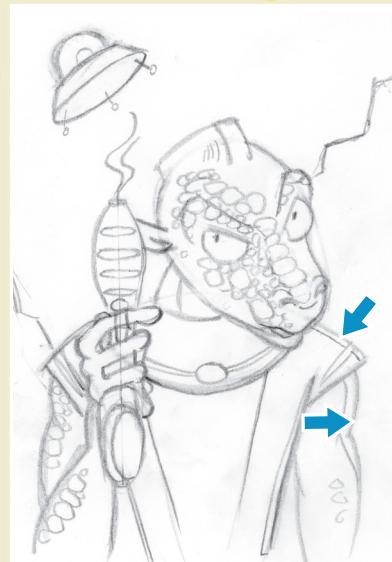
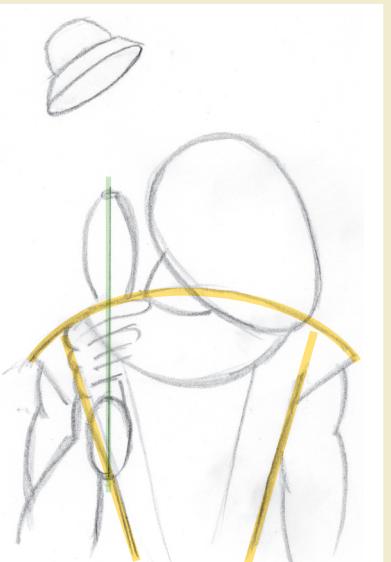
Chiaroscuro (**Kee-ar-uh-SKURE-o**) is an Italian word that means light and shadow. It is a lighting technique that adds drama to a picture by highlighting key features while other features become lost in shadow. It is used widely by action comic-book artists and was a hallmark of great artists such as Leonardo da Vinci and Rembrandt.



To understand how chiaroscuro works take a small flashlight (not a laser) into a dark room and shine it on your face while looking into a mirror. Try lighting your face from different angles. Now that you understand chiaroscuro, look for it on TV and in art museums.



Always wait for the ink to dry completely before erasing.

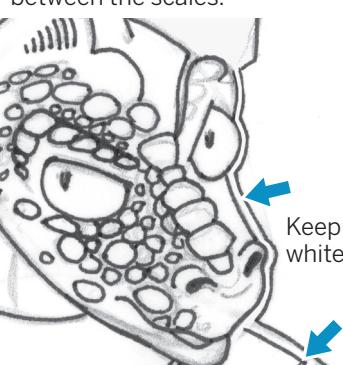


**1** In pencil, start with arc and cone shape that you see outlined in gold. This is the frame onto which everything is placed. The alien's head is an egg shape that slightly overlaps the body arc. The space gun will be easier to draw if you give yourself a center guideline. Our alien has only 3 fingers which will cross over the center of the gun. Place the spaceship in the sky.

**2** Begin to flesh out the figure. The top of the eyes angle toward the nose. Refine the shape of the head as outlined in green and draw the lower lip. Center the mohawk on top of the head. Add the clothing detail and background.

**3** You needn't cover the entire alien with scales, but be sure the ones you draw follow the contours of its shape. Gently erase the lines that are no longer needed. Plan ahead for the white highlights that will remain in the black areas (see arrows).

**4** You are now ready to begin inking with a thin felt-tip. Be careful not to fill in the areas that you want to remain white. Add some detail to the spaceship. Begin to darken some of the areas between the scales.



Keep white.

**5** With your wide black marker fill in the dark areas starting with the areas close to the "white" lines. Markers smear easily, so keep your drawing hand out of the wet ink by always working toward the dry edges.

If you like, add some color now with wide markers. A simple color scheme will further dramatize your chiaroscuro effect.