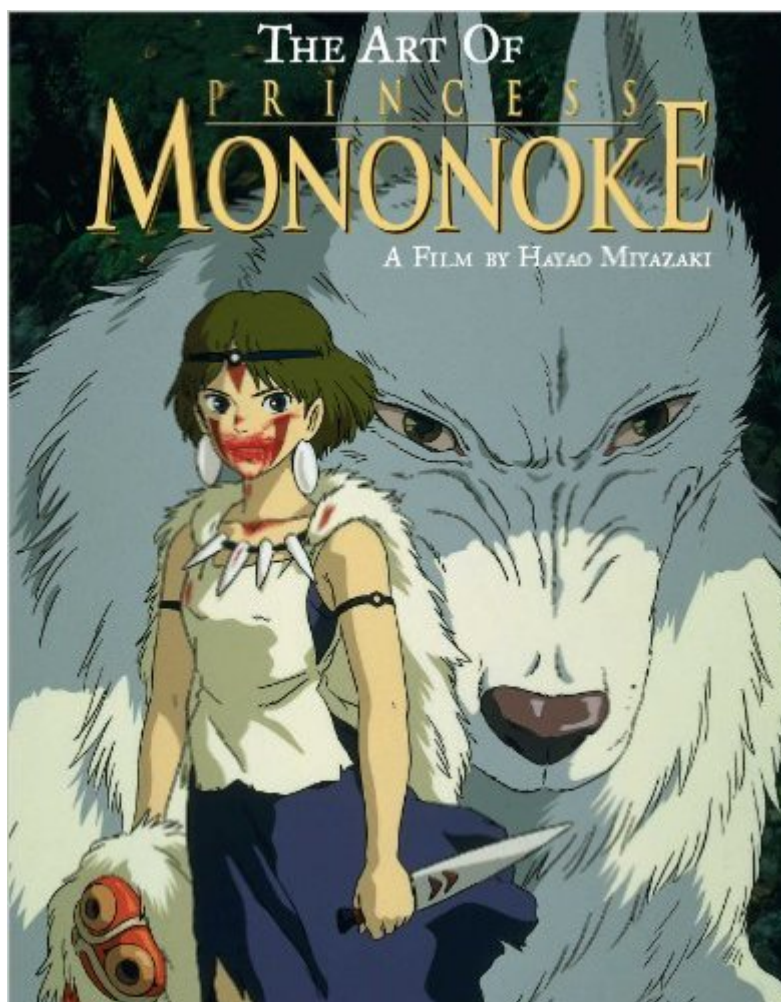


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# The Art Of Princess Mononoke



## Synopsis

The latest in the perennially popular line of Studio Ghibli artbooks, which include interviews, concept sketches, and finished animation cels from classics such as *Spirited Away* and *My Neighbor Totoro*. *Princess Mononoke* was the first Hayao Miyazaki film to break out into the American mainstream. The journey from initial idea to the big screen is captured here, in the hundreds of images from preliminary sketches to dynamic animation cels.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (37 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This is a belated but welcome translation by publisher Viz Media of the original Japanese artbook *The Art of The Princess Mononoke* (Princess Mononoke and the accompanying artbook came out in 1997). By the way, that Japanese artbook is still being reprinted even after so many years. I've reviewed the original Japanese artbook before, and also the other English edition by Miramax Books. There's no point getting those books now because one's in Japanese and the other is out of print. Viz Media's books are widely available. The interior pages of this English edition is laid out exactly the same as the Japanese book, only the text have been replaced. One other difference is this book is a hardcover vs the textured dust jacket paperback Japanese edition. This 224-page hardcover has well reproduced pictures on low to no gloss paper. Very good. The book starts off with a few poems and an introduction by Hayao Miyazaki before it goes into the concept art. The concept art is a mixture of character designs, movie stills, environment art, storyboards and several computer animation screenshots. There are line drawings as well as the pencil and watercolour sketches of Hayao Miyazaki. There aren't many studios that

still use watercolour sketches to create concept art nowadays so it's always refreshing to see the ones from Studio Ghibli. The sketches may look loose but they convey the action and settings clearly, and they look charming. The environment art are by Kazuo Oga and some of his artworks have also appeared in *Ōga Kazuo Animation Artworks 2*. There are a lot of background paintings and not one of them are credited so it's impossible to tell if they are all from Kazuo Oga.

I just wanted to write a quick blurb on this new Viz version in comparison to the old out of print Hyperion one. Do you need to buy this new Viz one if you have the old one? In a word, no. They are page-for-page identical with a few exceptions. Hyperion: Printed slightly differently, occasionally an image won't be as bright as the Viz version Introduction by Mark Schilling (the translator) Ghibli: Its past and present (speech by studio Ghibli president at the Annecy international animated film festival in 1995) Ghibli Filmography Viz: Images are more saturated or vibrant, but sometimes makes pencil lines look too dark. Overall I only noticed it on about 5-10% of the images Different cover, fits in better with the other 'art of' for Ghibli Production diary Different translation ie. Princess Mononoke Poem Viz/Hyperion: The trembling string of the taut bow / The quivering string of a fully drawn bow Your heart gleams in the light of the moon / Your heart astir in the moonlight The beauty of the keen-edged blade / Your beautiful face seen from the side Your profile like the tip of the sword / Unforgiving as the edge of a just sharpened sword Those who know your true heart hidden in / Those who know your true heart your sadness and anger / hidden in grief and anger Are only the small spirits of the forest / Only the spirits Only the spirits of the forest Overall a wonderful artbook to have, either one is fine. I do think Viz made some of the text easier to understand what image it corresponded with in the CG section but it's not a huge difference.

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