

THE INCLUSITOR SKETCHBOOK

•JOHN BLANCHE•

ohn Blanche, Games Workshop's legendary art director, has been the source of so much of the incredibly dark and gothic imagery of the Warhammer worlds. Now, with the release of the Inquisitor game, his arcane visions have reached a new level of inspiration and intricacy. Here for the first time is a glimpse into the development of a new game world, with John's original concepts taken directly from his infamous sketchbook including many ideas that did not make it into the finished release. This lavish full-colour book includes an introduction from Inquisitor's designer, Gav Thorpe, and annotations from John himself.

involved with John Blanche at the earliest conceptual stage. Right from the outset, we were aiming to do something a bit different to what our games had done before, and to really delve into the nature of heroes and villains in the Warhammer 40.000 universe. When John brought in his first concept sketch, the Imperial Guard Veteran, it was clear that even existing archetypes were going to benefit from a thorough going-over.

It started with a list of titles — different names like the arco-flagellant, the solar priest and the sycophantos. I wrote two or three lines fleshing each of these ideas out, while John started doing sketches and paintings. As I saw what John was doing the broad concepts were honed down into distinctive character types and even specific named characters, while some of what I was writing in the Inquistor teat introduced elements which John built upon in his art, such as the idea of doing a Deathwatch Space Marine rather than the Grey Knight we had originally been keen on.

After John had produced dozens of sketches we then narrowed down the field to the fifteen miniatures we had the resources to make as a main range, and believe me it wasn't an easy process. Obviously there were key figures that simply had to be included, such as the various new Inquisitors themselves, the Space Marine, a Tech-Priest of some variety, and so on. These were all figures from the heart of the existing imagery of the Imperium and the Warhammer 40,000 game. The real difficulty came in deciding which new characters to introduce to the background, since all had their merits. In the end, we chose the characters we felt were based upon the strongest and most diverse archetypes, mixed with no small amount of personal favouritism, for my part as much inspired by the actual pictures John had produced as the underlying concepts themselves — as you will see in this fine book.

Of course, perhaps the greatest achievement of Inquisitor was to explain all about those flying skulls John keeps putting in his paintings...

gav Thorpe

Designer of the Inquisitor game

think that whenever one develops a new world, or part of a bigger world, there is a real opportunity to try something new. The development of the Inquisitor game allowed

us to focus on some aspects of the Warhammer 40,000 universe that had always been there, but never properly developed — such as the rogue traders and the Adeptus Mechanicus. We were also able to introduce characters who were not soldiers, but had their part to play as denizens of the wider 40K background. I was particularly interested in the more medieval and arcane characters like cultists, redemptionists and amazing new concepts like the arco-flagellant. That particular character's genesis actually started with Alan Merrett, who produced a wonderful list of provocative titles: words like 'arco-flagellant', 'daemonhost' and 'chrono-gladiator'.

These served to inspire my original concept drawings; Gav responded to them with more background notes, and in turn I responded to those. Beyond that, though, there was no set pattern to developing these characters — if you define the brief too rigidly, it's easy to lose that inexplicable spark that brings a character to life.

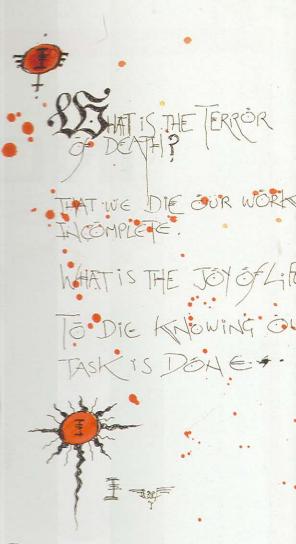
This freedom also extended to the deliberate speed and looseness these sketches. Inspired by old punk fanzines and the spontaneous creativity of action painting and expressionism, on this project my methodology was to deliberately not be too precious. The freedom to try ideas, take them wherever they wanted to go, was liberating. I have been producing sketches for more than ten years, but usually the games only feature the finished product. However, inspired by Jes Goodwin's book of concept sketches, *The Gothic & the Eldritch*, I have started to pay more attention to them. In these sketches, you can see not just the ideas that made it into the Inquisitor game but many more besides that, but for this book, would have been discarded.

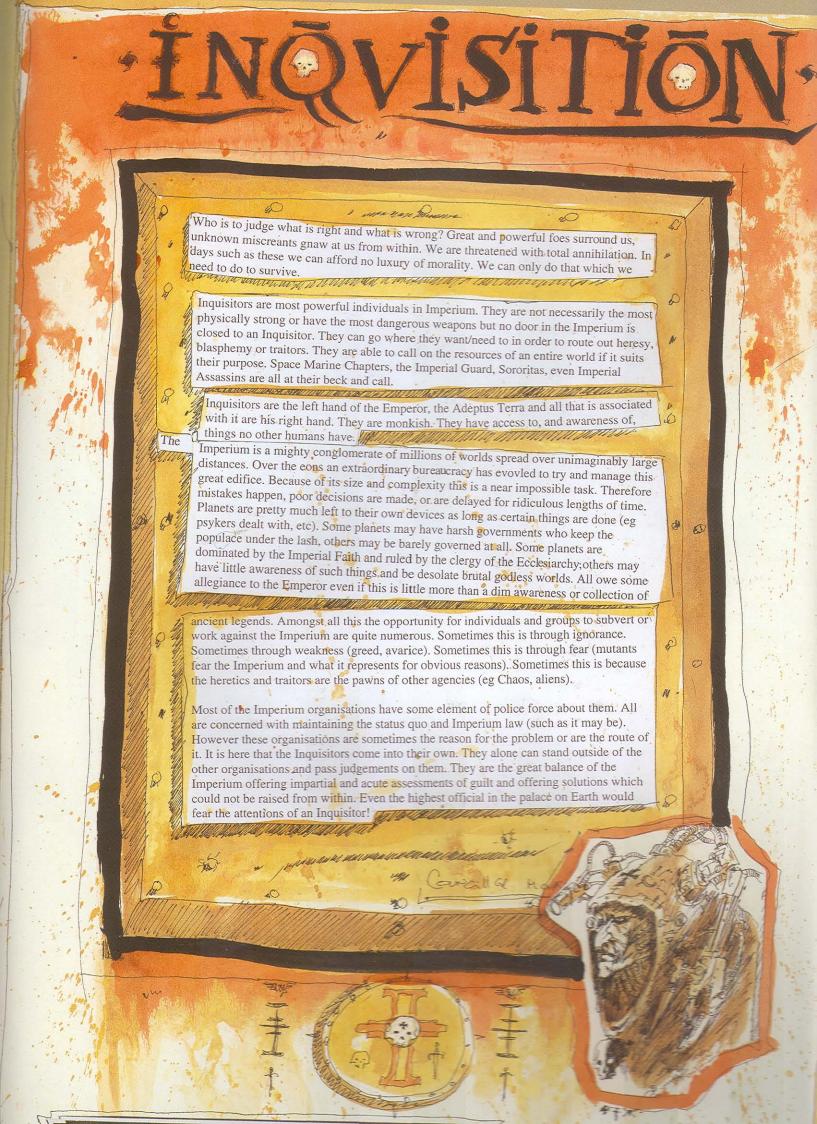
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John Blanche



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Mechanicus Acolyte – The equivalent of the verger in the Temples of the Machine-God. Just starting his career as a Techpriest (not actually allowed to be called a Techpriest yet).

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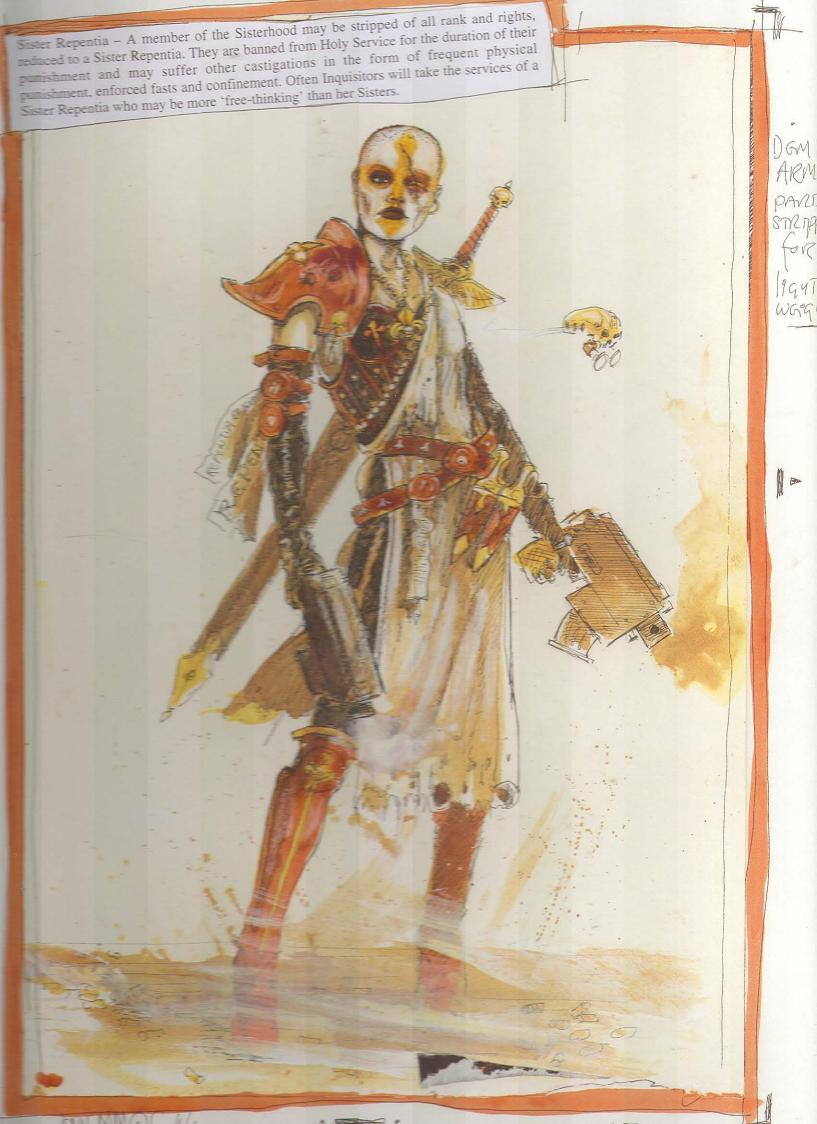


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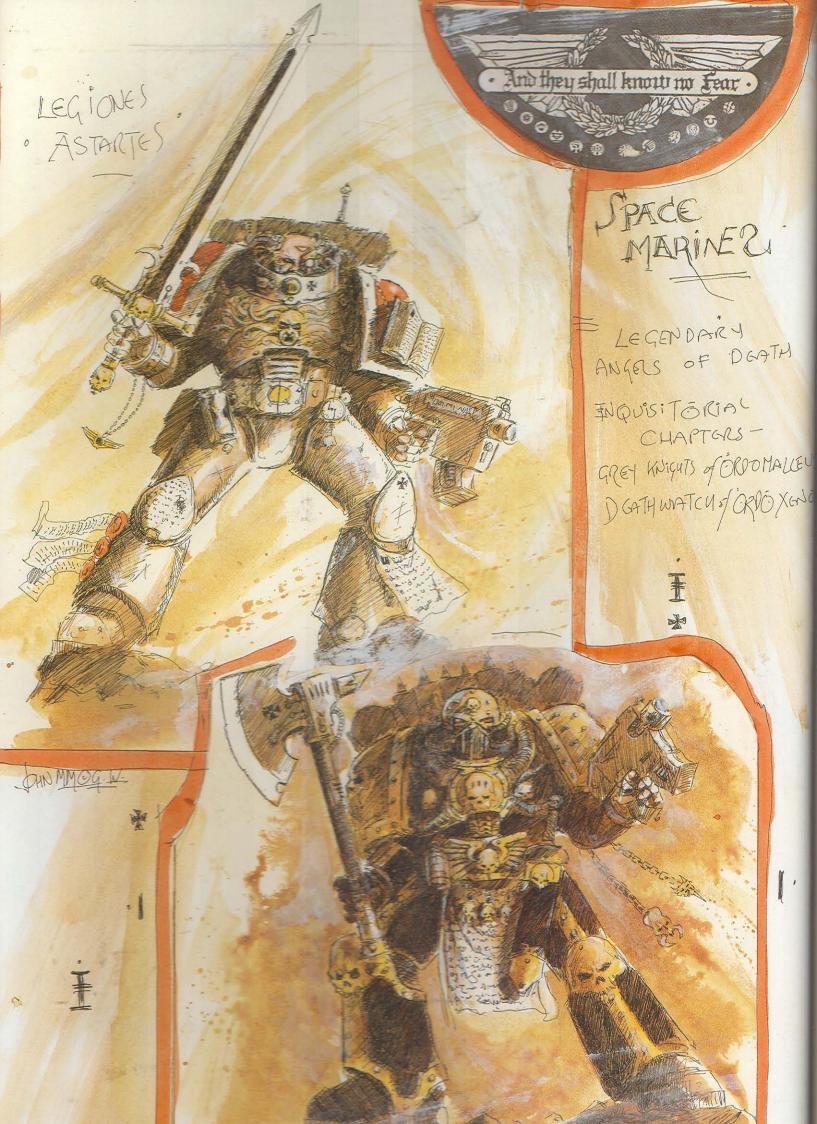
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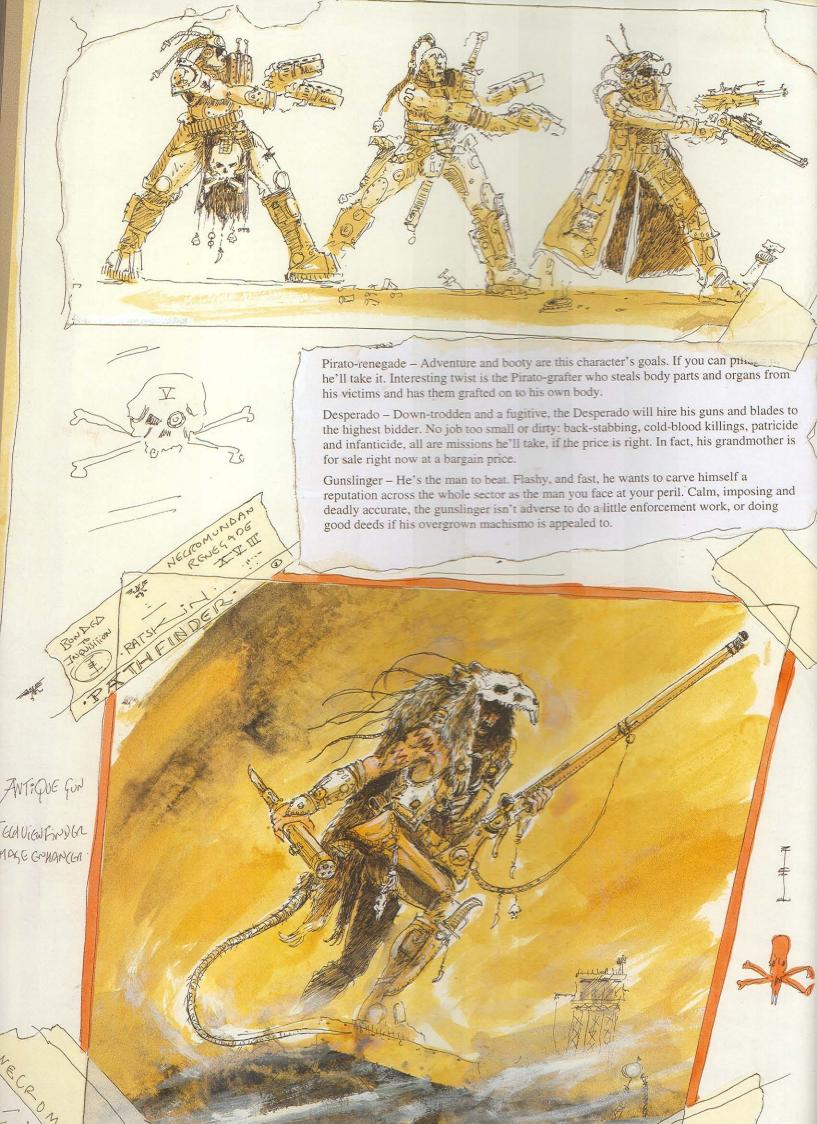
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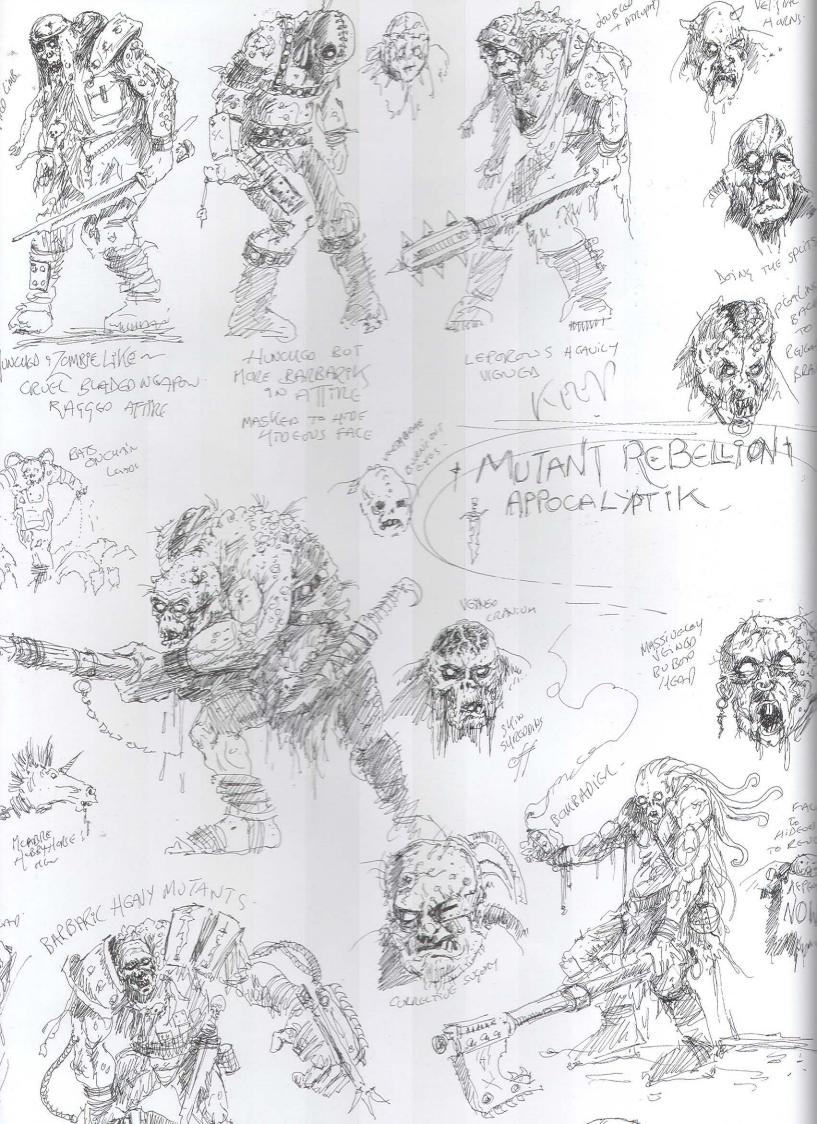


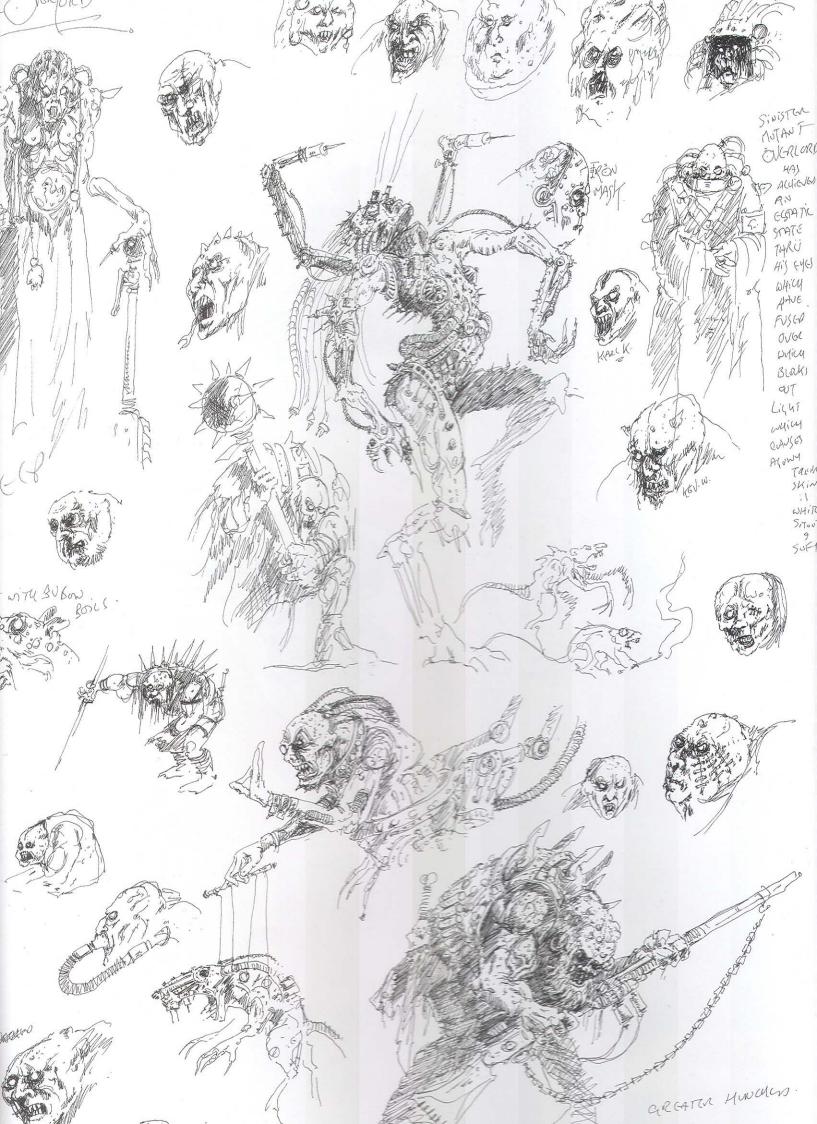


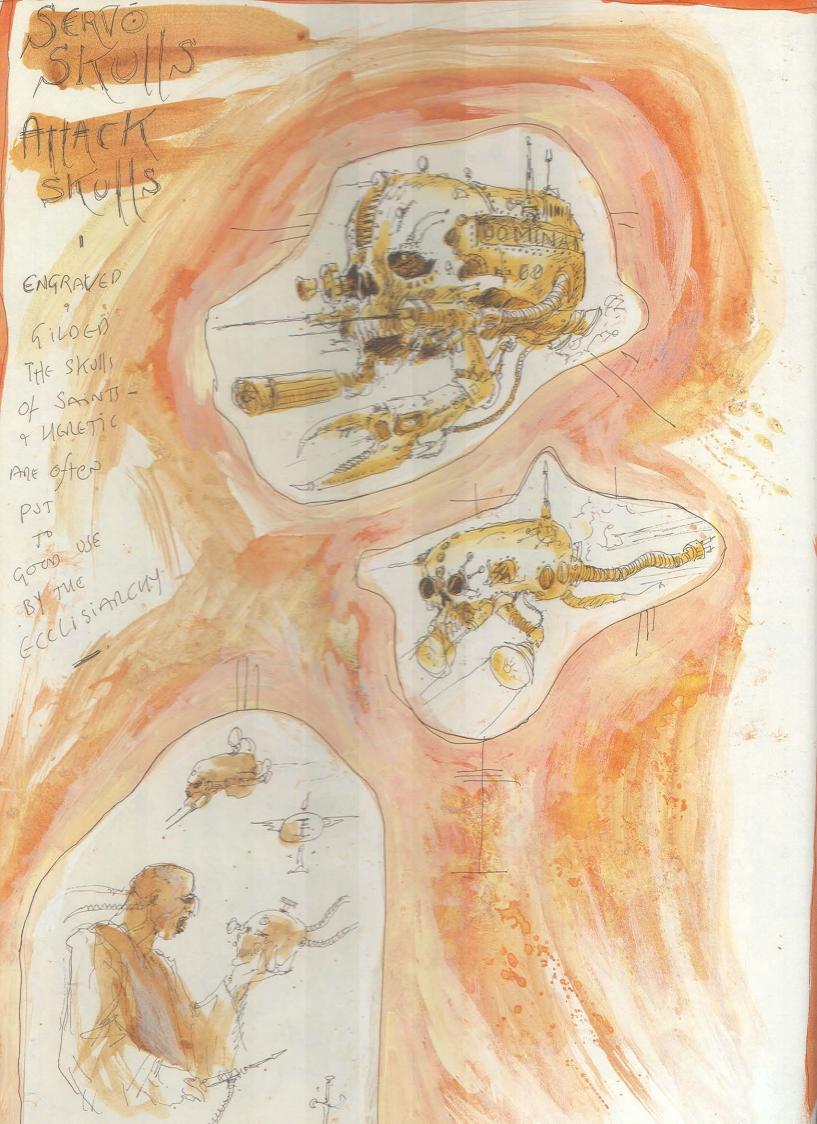


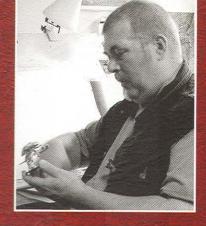




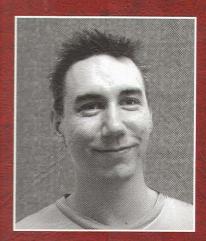








ohn Blanche's art work has been a driving force in the appeal of Games Workshop's games and miniatures for over twenty years. He continues to devote his time to further developing the dark and gothic imagery of the world's most popular tabletop games, both in his own paintings and sketches, and as the inspirational Art Director of GW's Design Studio.



av Thorpe works for Games Workshop in his capacity as Warhammer Loremaster, whatever that is. Something to do with making stuff up and designing games, apparently. He has written a clutch of short stories for Inferno!, and people constantly nag him for more novels featuring the Last Chancers to follow 13th Legion and Kill Team. You may be worried to learn that, when he is thinking really hard, he has a tendency to talk to the mechanical hamster with which he shares a flat.



Games Workshop

