



Mikko Saarainen



What was the commission?

The commission was an editorial illustration for Kodikas-magazine. The job was to illustrate an article about sharing households (people sharing things and services with each other).

What was the biggest challenge of this assignment?

There were no big challenges. I think the most important thing is the composition, so i used quite a lot of time for the layout of the image.

What is the first thing you do when you receive a commission?

I read the brief and made sure that I had everything I needed to know – For example, the size and shape of the image.

Describe your sketch process.

I usually start with making a list of different elements (characters and objects) that i want/need to have in the image. Then i make very small pencil sketches that show the general composition. The sketches are pretty rough. Everything will be refined in the final image and the details might change a little bit.

Did the finished work turn out the way you thought it would?

I am pretty pleased with the image. It has funny looking characters and interesting details and also the composition works.



What was the feedback you were given?

When I sent the sketch to the client I was told to add one object to the image. The final illustration was approved and the client was happy and satisfied with the image.

Did you have to go outside of your “comfort zone” in this commission?

No.

Was it a good brief?

The brief was good and clear, but I was also given plenty of artistic freedom

What did you learn from the process of this commission?

I learned that if you manage your time well, you don't feel rushed, even if you don't have much time before the deadline.

What inspired you to make the commission the way you did?

I don't really know.

What skills helped you the most with this commission?

The most important “skill” was time management.