

Joseph Michael Linsner's sketchbook lies. There's nothing sketchy about it.

You'll find no loose figures, no rough character studies in Linsner's portfolio. When the acclaimed Dawn creator gets an idea, he runs with it, runs hard, all the way through to the end. He's got a philosophy about it, see?

"It kinda ties in with the [On the Road author] Jack Kerouac concept of spontaneous prose, the idea that the first thought is the purest thought," Linsner says sincerely. "The first attempt at putting something down is usually best when you're trying to capture a raw emotion."

Don't like Kerouac? Linsner has a more contemporary analogy. "Okay, it's like using the Force," he laughs. "Don't think, DO.

Just shoot from the hip."

Linsner's shooting a full clip these days. July's self-published *Dawn: Pin-Up Goddess* will feature Dawn, the representation of all mother goddesses, in her many forms. That will lead into a new *Dawn* mini-series in 2002, returning hero Darrian Ashoka to the forefront. And after dipping his toe in the Marvel pool with a *Killraven* one-shot last year, Linsner will dive in with a series of Marvel

one-shots.

Linsner keeps track of his many projects in his trusty sketchbook. And everything is easy to find, with vibrant colors that leap off the page. Remember: That first thought is pure, and it's gotta be recorded in great, graphic detail. 'Cause in Joseph Michael Linsner's sketchbook, the "sketches" are either full-blown gorgeous...or they're not there at all.

DAWN THE EMPRESS

This regal-looking pin-up is part of *Dawn: Pin-Up Goddess*. "It's a costume design for a new aspect of Dawn we're going to see in the third *Dawn* mini-series," Linsner explains. It's not the nicest side Dawn has to offer. "We'll see her darker aspect, her more manipulative side," Linsner reveals. "This is kinda her 'evil queen' aspect—basically, a dark empress."

DEATHLOK

Marvel's cyborg assassin is a Linsner fave, and one of his future one-shot possibilities with the publisher. "I've always seen Deathlok as the ultimate existential superhero—a nihilist trapped between life and death," he offers. "The fact that he's a mechanical zombie and a political assassin makes him the ultimate anti-hero. You gotta love him!"

And Linsner likes his Deathlok to look creepy. "Deathlok, if you just think about him for a second, is a pretty frightening character. They took this corpse and wired it up and sent him out there to kill. I don't think I'd like to draw him with decayed flesh hanging off, but he should definitely scare anyone who gets too close."

THOR

Linsner did this piece a few years ago, just for fun. Now it's got a practical application. Linsner will draw Thor in an issue of *Ultimate Marvel Team-Up*, teaming up with writer Brian Michael Bendis.

"I was at a convention in Seattle and bumped into Bendis, and he just said, 'Hey, man. I'm doing *Ultimate Marvel Team-Up*. Wanna do one?' Having my head on straight, I told him that I'd love to do Thor."

But Linsner won't do it for a while. "Bendis has got 22 or 23 guys ahead of me in line, every one a winner," Linsner says. "But this is something I'm really dying to do."



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