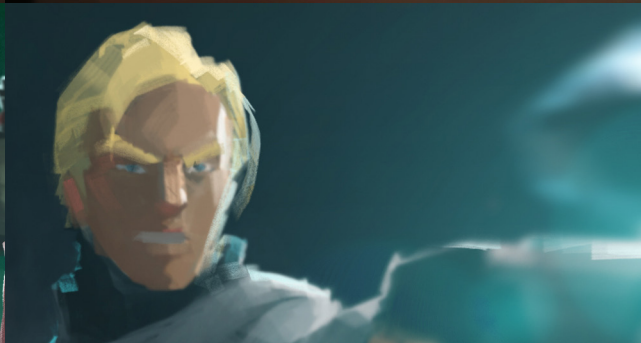




FINAL FANTASY VII

A Cinematic Speedpainting Series by **Lap Pun Cheung**



FINAL FANTASY VII

Final Fantasy and all its characters and music belong to Square Enix. This project is purely fan art works developed by myself.

My name is Lap Pun Cheung and I am a concept artist and illustrator. You can find my works on the following sites:

<https://www.artstation.com/artist/c780162>

<http://c780162.deviantart.com/>

Or by following me on Facebook and Twitter:

<https://www.facebook.com/lap.p.cheung>

<https://twitter.com/c780162>

Nobuo Uematsu,

Your music continues to inspire me.

Introduction

Final Fantasy VII. One of my favourite games and something of milestone for JPRG popularity in the west.

I had played this game many times many years ago, after my brother introduced it to me. It didn't immediately impress me, with its super blocky characters and low poly object, but it did grow on me. Its engrossing story and amazing music certainly helped and now I consider it be one of the most influential games on my growth as an artist.

Skip ahead around fifteen years, I enjoy watching Let's Plays and game videos on the internet whilst working. One day I remember that I haven't played the PS1 era titles for such a long time and I decide to watch a Let's Play of Final Fantasy VII. As I finished watching it, I realised that I suddenly felt super inspired to create fan art based on it. The key was the stunning soundtrack by Nobuo Uematsu. Even when I hear one of the songs now, out of context, the emotions and scenes from that game immediately come to mind.

With that I decided that I would do a piece of art for each soundtrack title. That was the original plan but soon enough, just doing the titles wasn't going to cut it in making the series coherent. So I added filler images, to cover points in the story the soundtrack doesn't show. After around five months of working on it in my free time and in between other personal projects I have finally finished. It hasn't always been easy and some of the results aren't what I intended, but now it is complete.

I present to you my cinematic speedpainting series of Final Fantasy VII. I hope you enjoy it.

The symbol ° denotes an image which is based on a soundtrack title.

An additional note; I never realised I missed one OST title - 'Attack of the Weapon'



000 The Prelude °

The first image in the series, this is the shot from the main menu. For most scenes I could think of some alternative camera angles but for this one, it seemed appropriate the start with the iconic menu image.

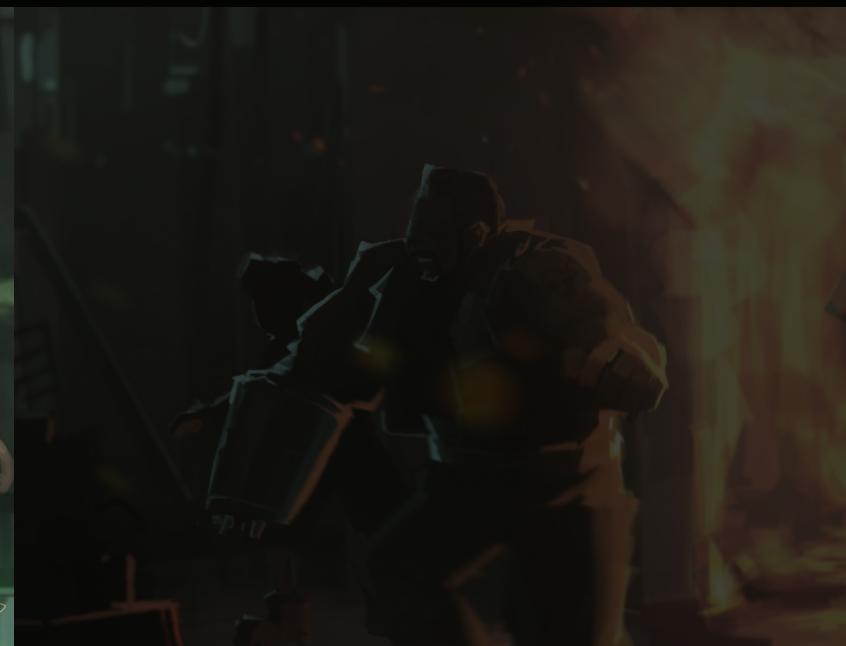


001 Opening °

The song for this one is split with the next one - 'Bombing Mission'



002 Bombing Mission °



003 Mako Reactor °



004 Escaping the Reactor

The first non-OST related image. At this stage I didn't realise how much work would really be involved in this project if I kept adding fillers. I had a rough idea but to actually experience it was different.



005 First Encounter

I also wanted to involve some key shots of what I thought were important moments in the game, even if they didn't have their own musical piece. Cloud's first encounter with the flower girl is one such example to me.



006 Train Jump

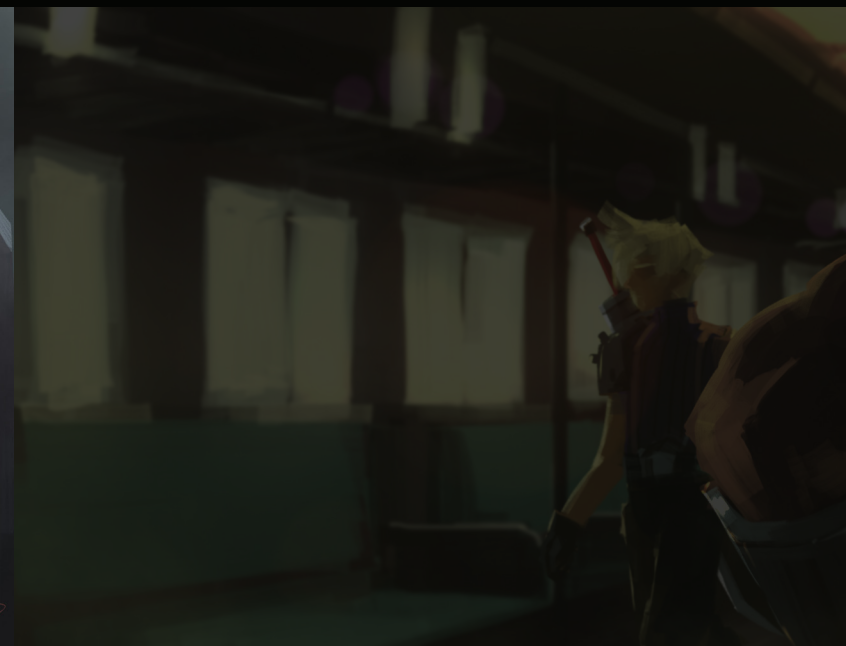


007 Anxious Heart °



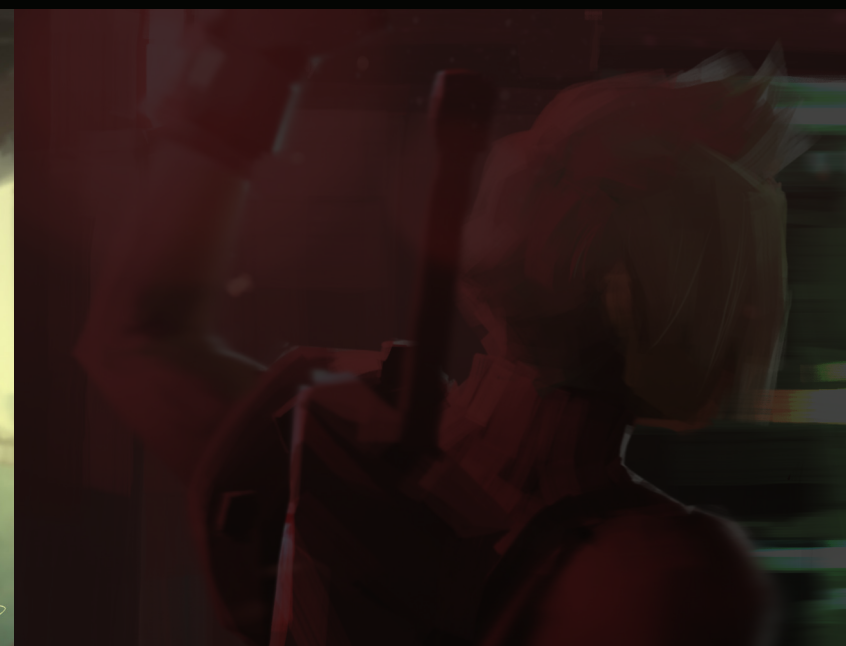
008 7th Heaven (Tifa's Theme) °

This scene is one I knew I wanted to paint when I heard Tifa's theme again. It had to be at her bar. When the series was featured on Kotaku after I released about 20 images there was a running joke in the comments about her 'grey moustache'. I found it hilarious that I didn't notice this initially but one of the pieces of fanart at the end of this document is dedicated to them.

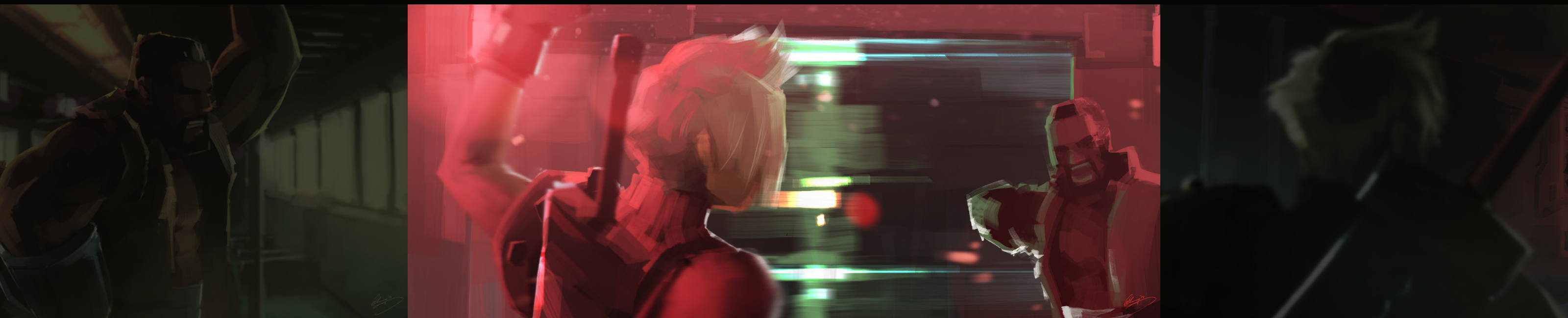


009 The Promise

The flashbacks in this series are desaturated with a vignette, I needed to differentiate them from the normal timeline. Also, I wanted to have callbacks and allusions between the images. Keep this image in mind when you reach '122 Under the Night Sky Once More'.



010 Train to Reactor 5 (Barret's Theme) °



011 Hurry! °



012 Lurking in the Darkness °

Many shots where we are viewing the scene from Cloud's perspective are done in an over-the-shoulder camera angle or at least behind him. I wanted the viewer to feel more sympathetic to him.



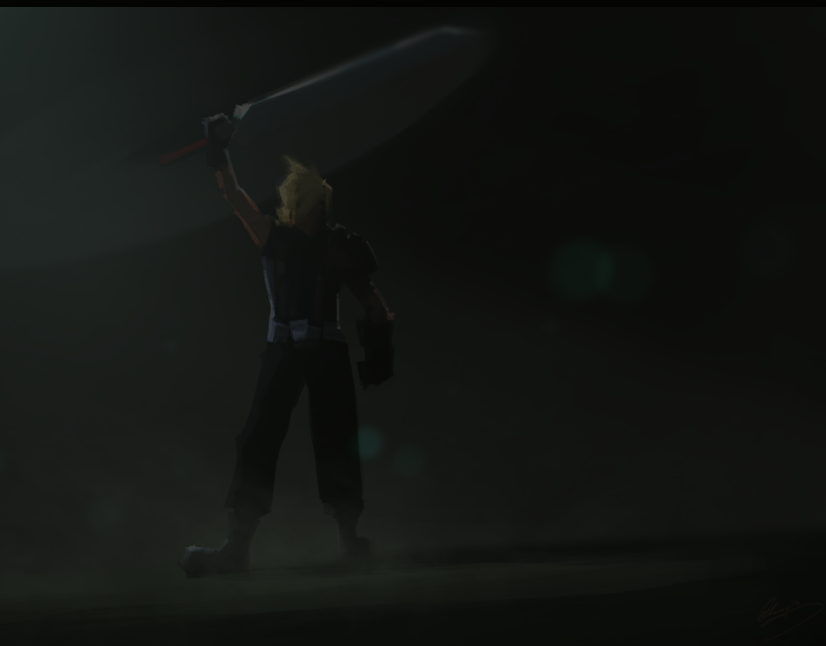
013 Shinra Inc. °



014 Those Who Fight °



015 Fanfare °



016 Cloud Falls



017 Flowers Blooming in the Church °

Out of all the paintings in this series, I think this one is my favourite and judging from the reception, many others like it too. If his first encounter with Aeris was important I think this is the moment that really kicked off the main story of the game.

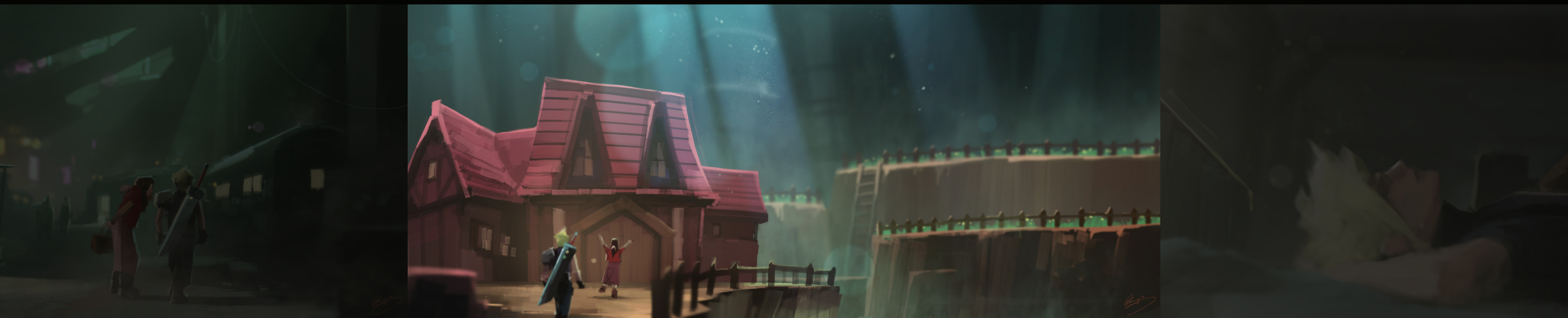


018 Enter Reno (Turk's Theme) °

I love the Turks.



019 Under the Rotting Pizza °



020 Aeris' House



021 How You've Grown



022 Already Waiting

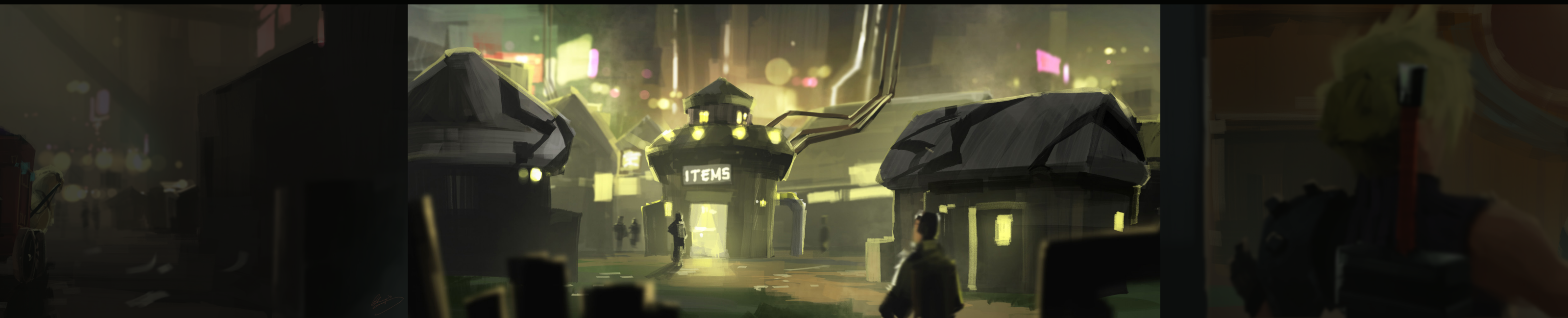


023 Playground Date

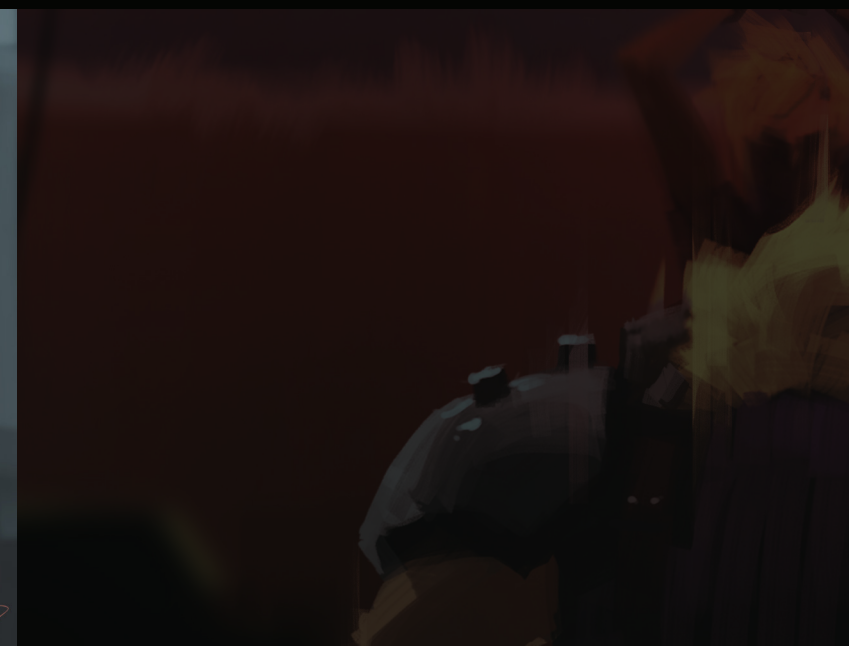
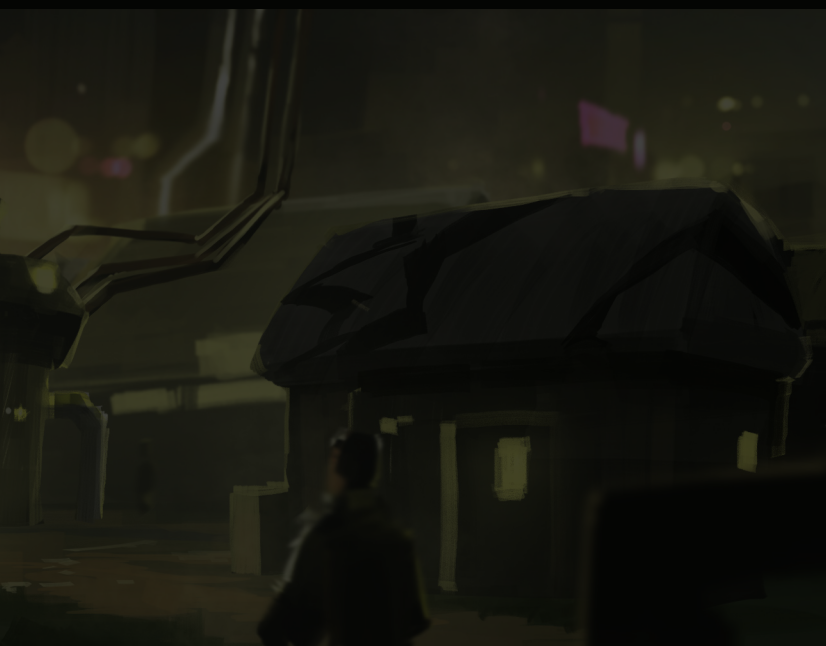
To me, at this stage of the game, Aeris was presented as the main female character and definitely appeared to be Cloud's love interest so it was fun to depict this. Also, I had forgotten many of the smaller moments like this and it was a joy to relive them.



024 Kidnapped

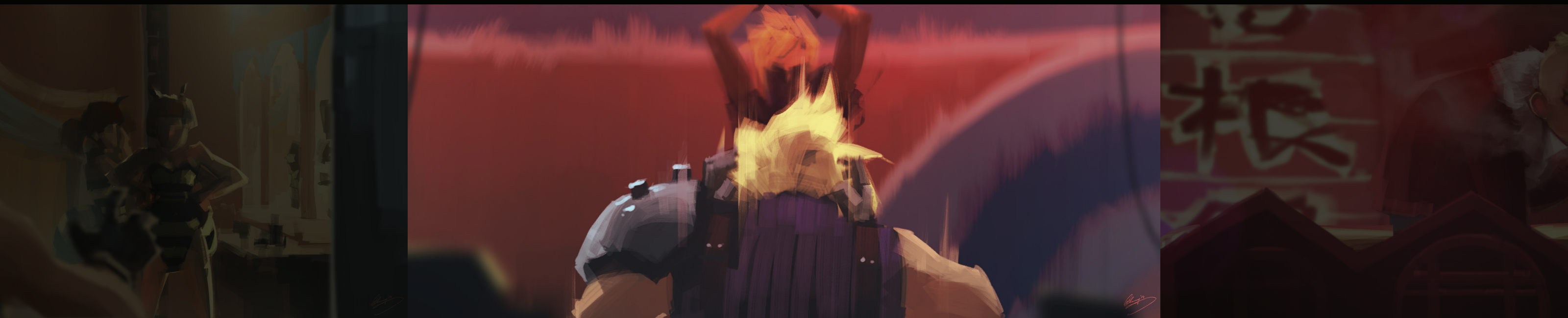


025 The Oppressed °



026 Honeybee Inn °

One thing about Final Fantasy VII is how it includes many darker elements but sometimes in a comedic manner, such as the Honeybee Inn. It made the game all the more interesting.



027 Who...Are You? °



028 Don of the Slums °

One of the funnier moments where it was possible to get Cloud selected by Don Corneo!



029 Sewer Traversal



030 PillarFight



031 Fall of Sector 7



032 Barret Mourning



033 Aeris' House Revisited



034 Adopting the Ancient



035 Please Don't Cry

Aeris telling Elmyra about her husband.



036 Marlene Reunited

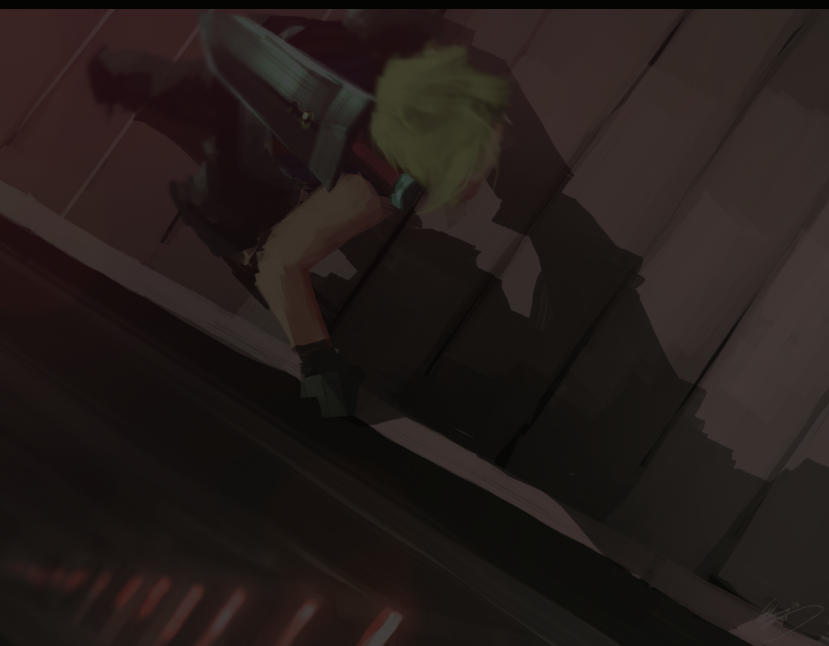


037 Infiltrating Shinra °



038 60 Floors!

They made you run up what actually felt like 60 floors!



039 Sneaking Around HQ



040 The Specimen



041 Those Who Fight Further °

One of my favourite tracks from the OST. I also enjoy the Black Mages cover of it!



042 It Talks (Red XIII's Theme) °

I know a lot of people love this little guy and the backstory with his father is so sad!



043 Captured



044 Death of a President



045 Rufus



046 Crazy Motorcycle °

For some reason, this game had so many awesome minigames!



047 Dear to the Heart °



048 World Map (Main Theme of Final Fantasy VII) °

I deliberately changed up the colour scheme after leaving Midgar as I wanted to accentuate the shift before the polluted megacity and the rest of the world. From this point onwards the paintings don't really have that grungy cyberpunk/dieselpunk feeling anymore.



049 On our Way °



050 Goodnight, Until Tomorrow °



051 Riding with Sephiroth

This set of flashbacks is so important to the story I had to include them.



052 On that Day, 5 Years Ago °

Cloud is in this picture.



053 Memento of a Hero

Cloud is not in this picture.



054 In Flames

This is another one of those famous scenes which I haven't really changed.

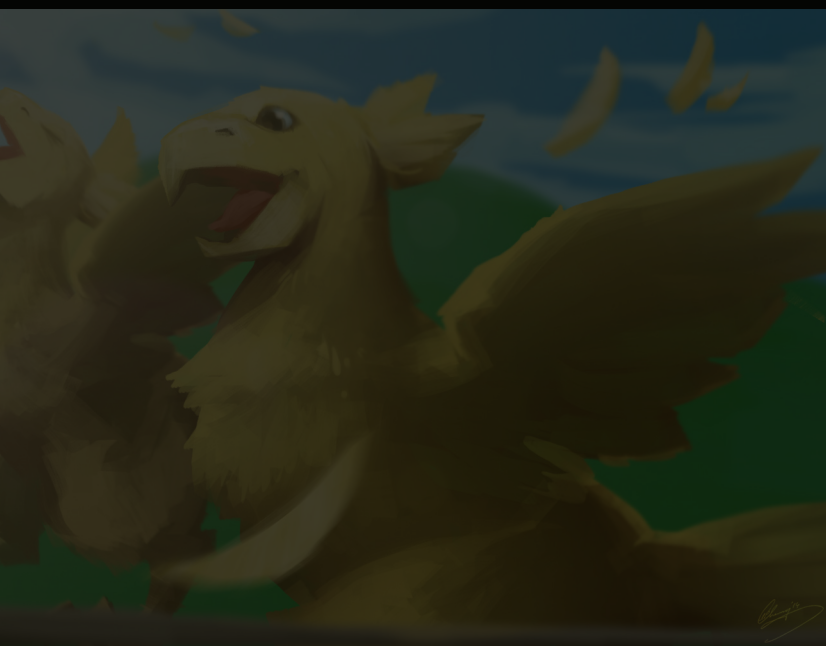


055 Farm Boy °



056 Waltz de Chocobo °

Big yellow birds!



057 Electric de Chocobo °



058 Cinco de Chocobo °

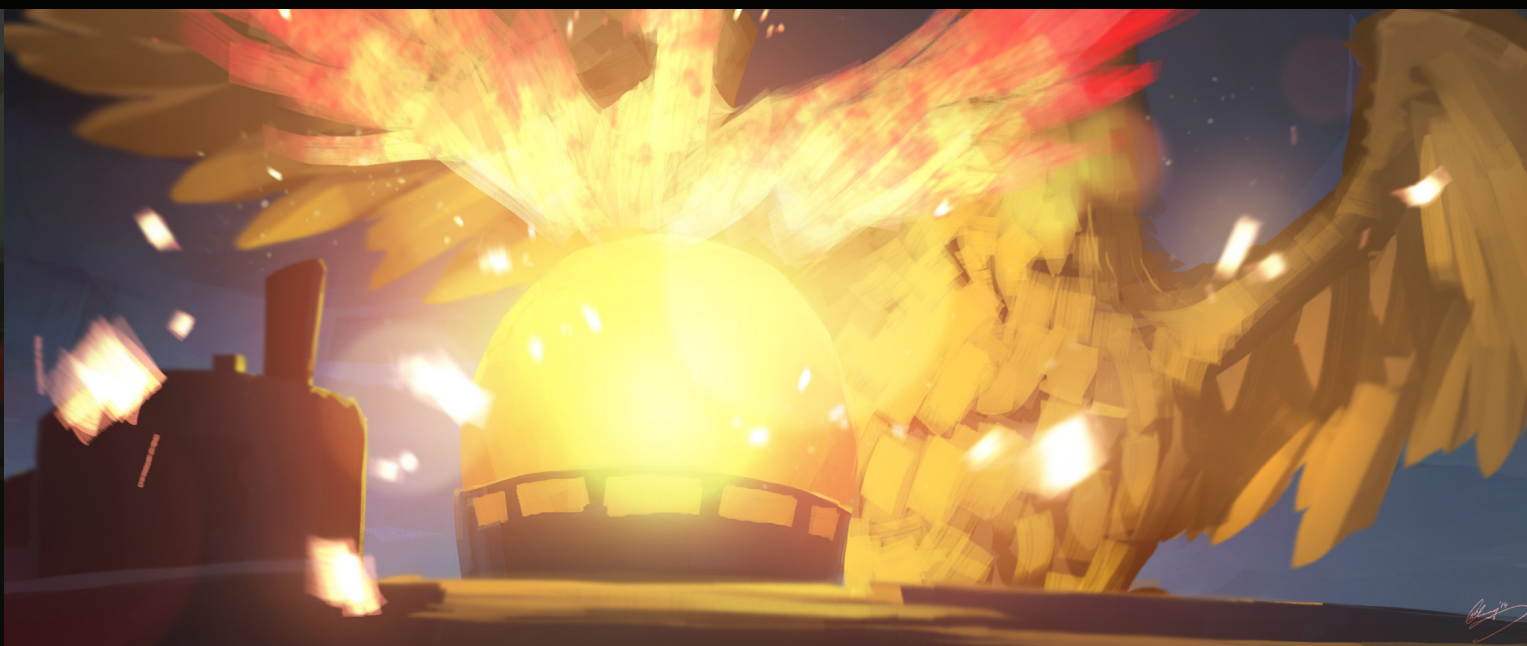
I had just watched the first 'The Force Awakens' teaser, I'm sure you can see which shot this mimics.



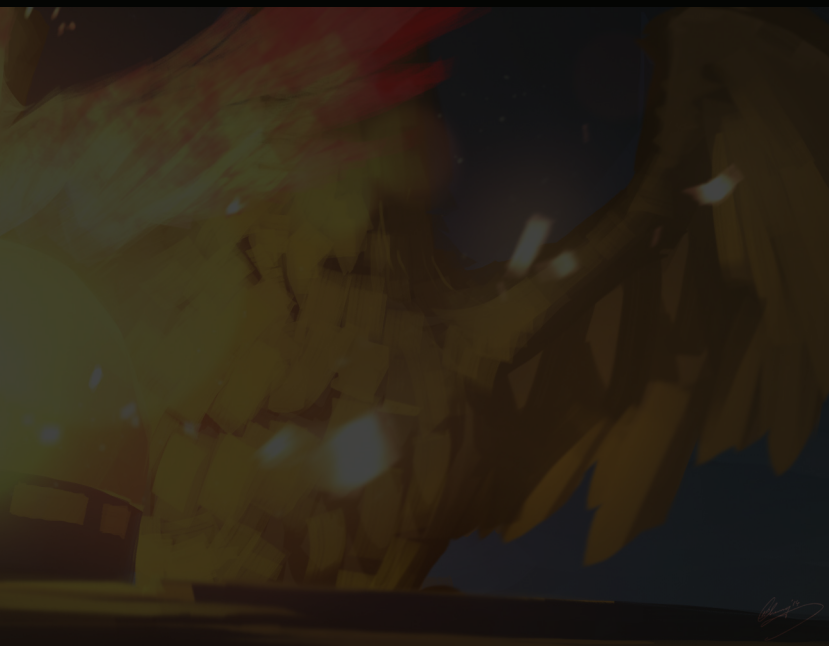
059 In Search of the Man in Black °



060 Fort Condor °

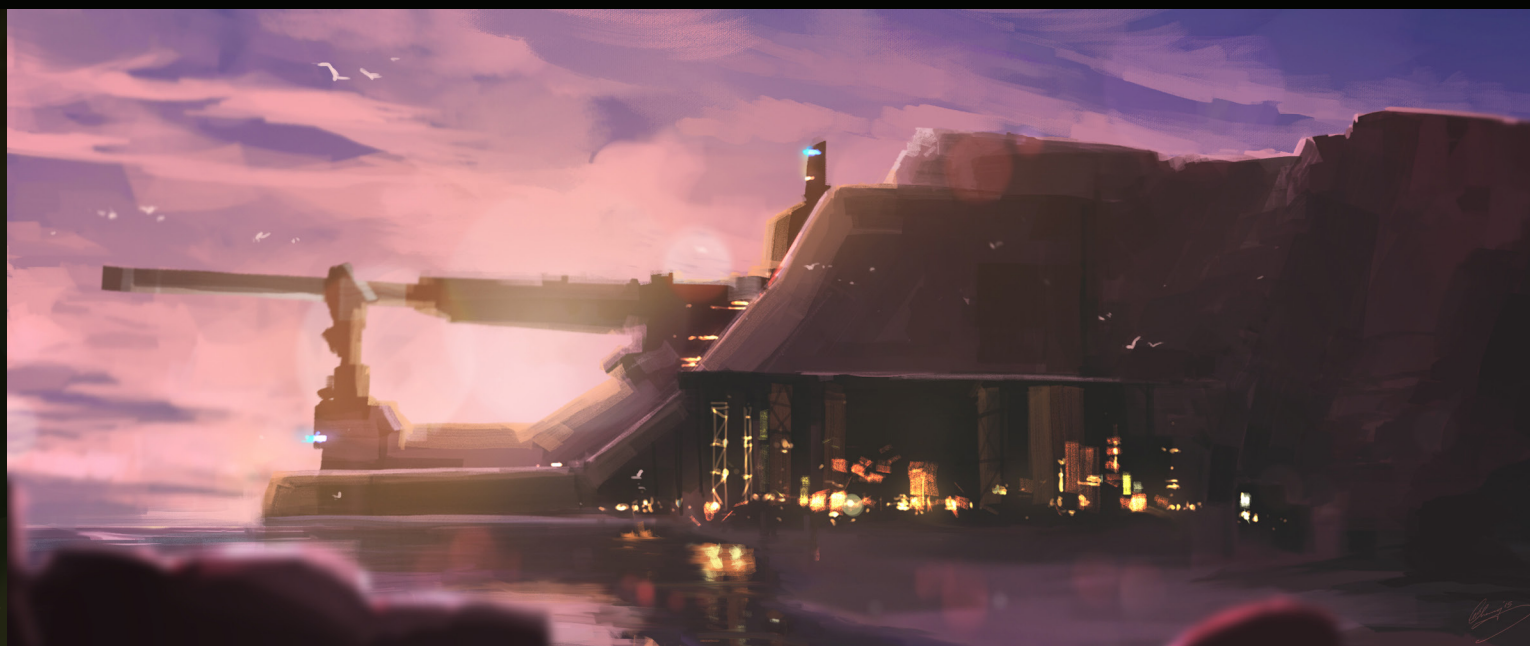
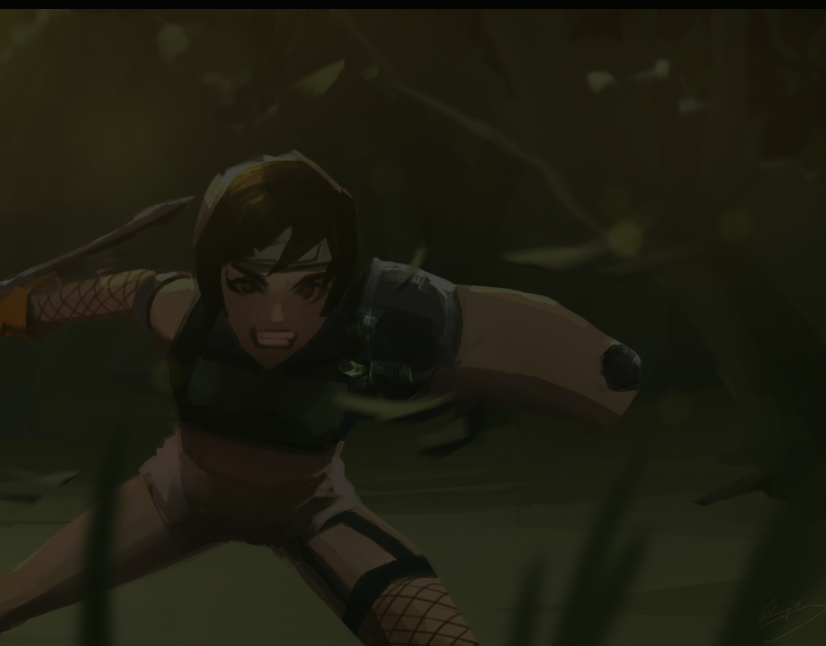


061 Phoenix Materia



062 Ninja Girl in the Forest

You can pick up Yuffie pretty early in the game via a random encounter in the forests!



063 City of the Cannon



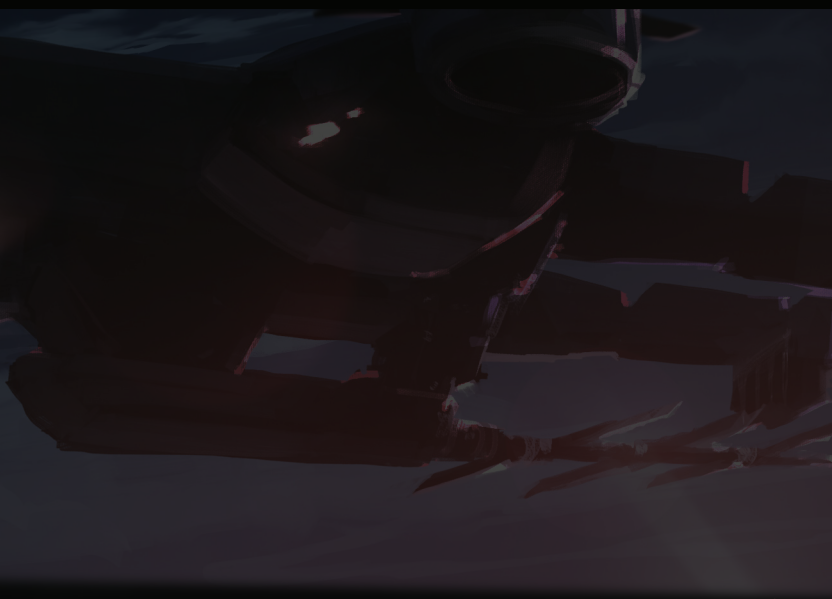
064 Mister Dolphin

Another ridiculous moment where you use a dolphin to throw you up to the upper city!



065 The Highwind





066 Rufus' Welcoming Ceremony °



067 It's Hard to Stand on Two Feet! °



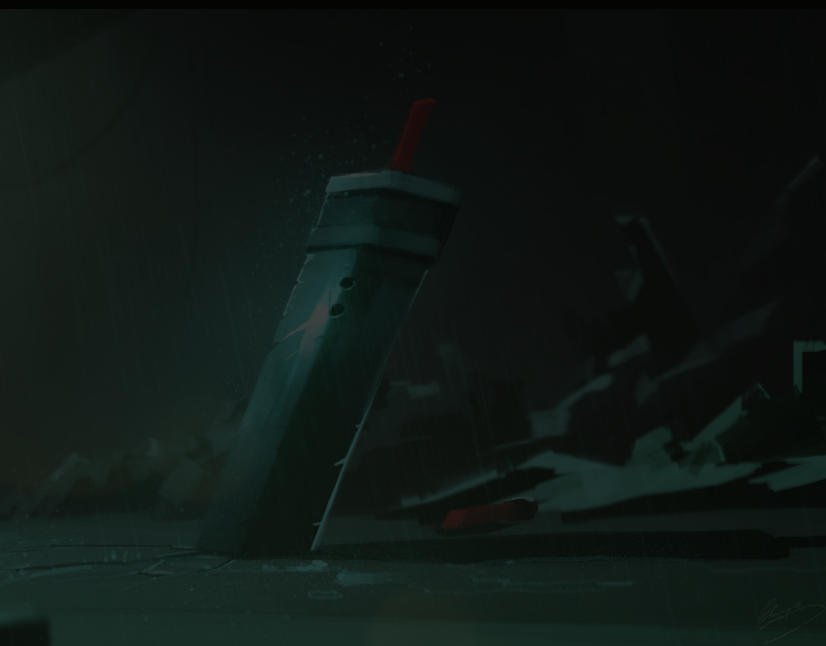
068 Trail of Blood °



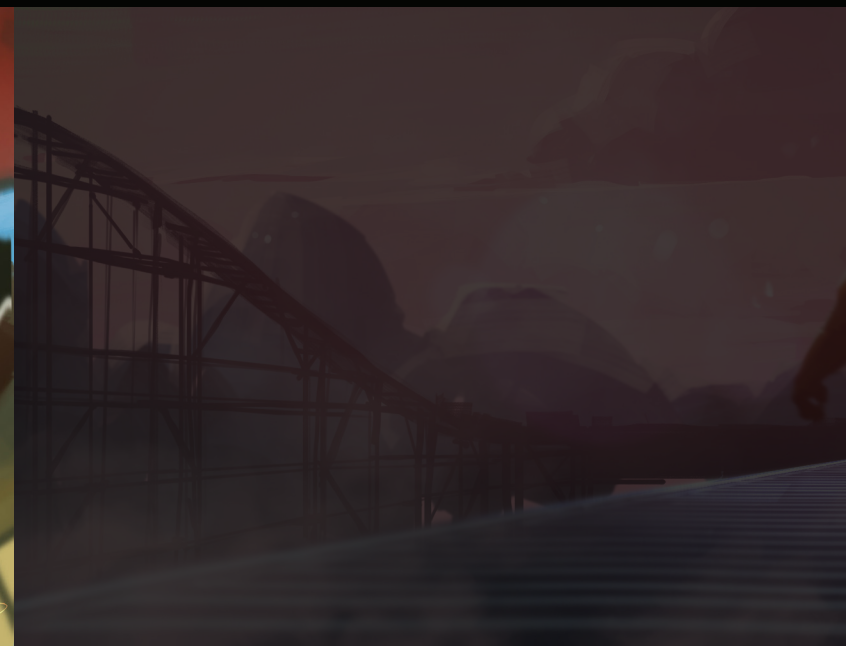
069 Jenova



070 Continue °



071 Costa del Sol °

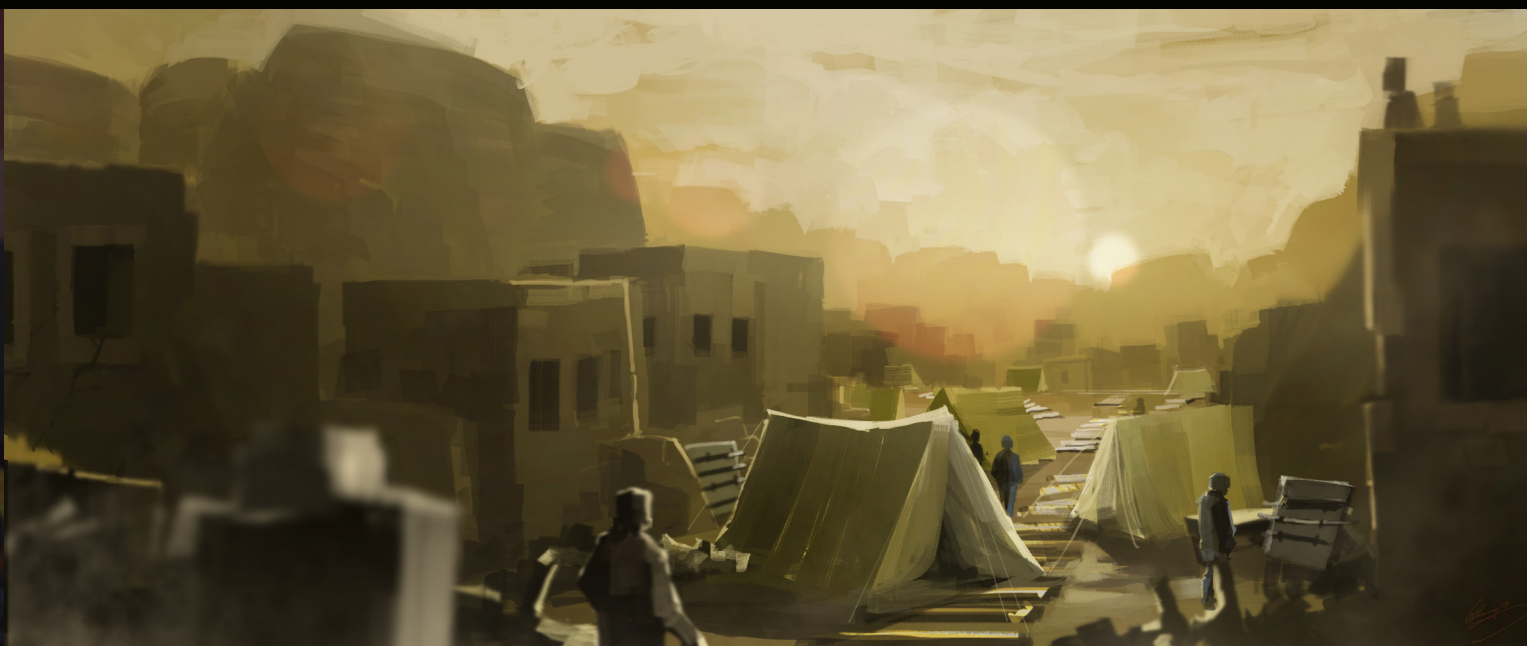


072 Beach Day

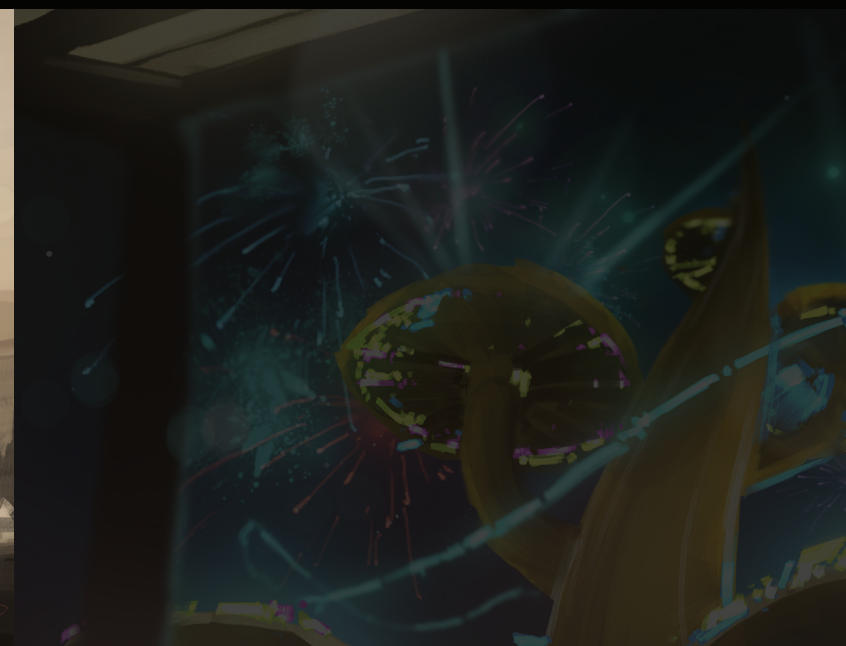
A little bit of fanservice with the girls playing volleyball.



073 Old Railroads



074 Mark of a Traitor °



075 Mining Town °



076 Gold Saucer

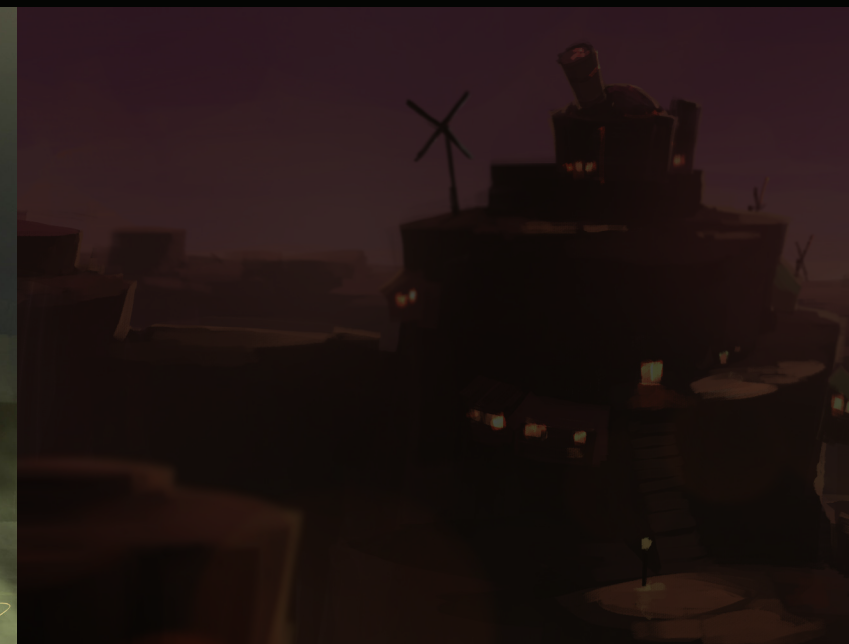
Heading to one of the most fun areas of the game.



077 The Puppet (Cait Sith's Theme) °



078 Desert Wasteland °



079 Dyne

Barret's tragic past coming to a conclusion.



080 Cosmo Canyon °

This area feels so nice when you arrive. For me, the music is one of the main reasons for this.



081 Lifestream °



082 The Great Warrior °

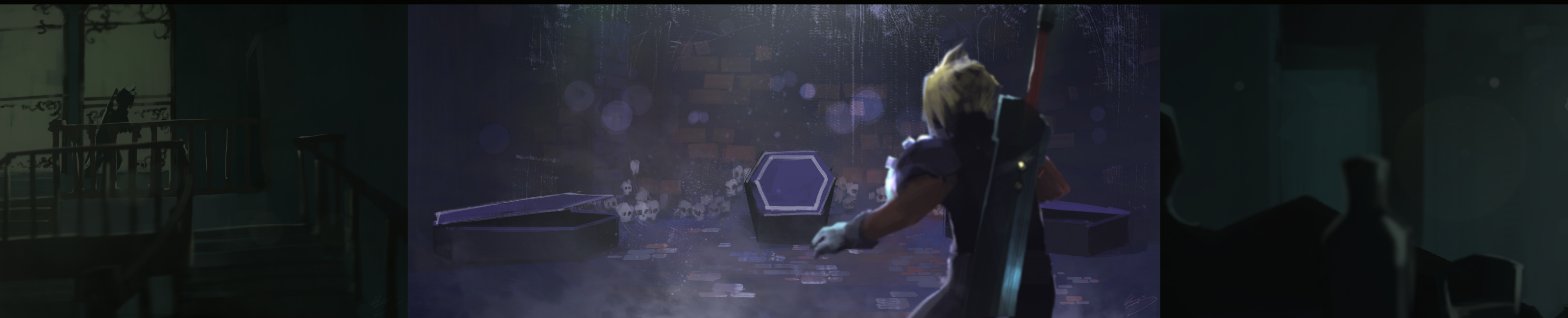
Sometimes, just sometimes, my eyes tear up when I hear this song.



083 Descendant of Shinobi °



084 Those Chosen by the Planet °



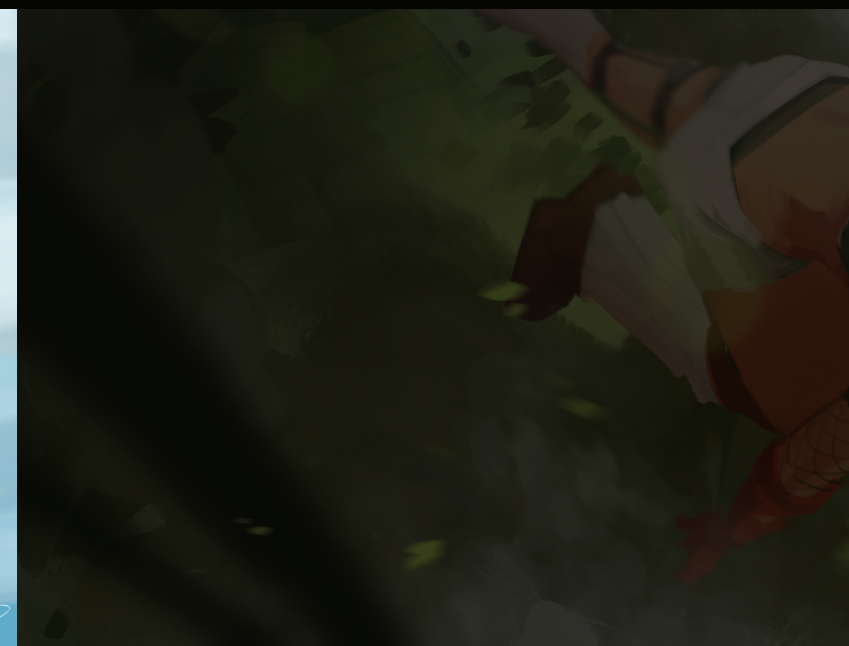
085 The Nightmare Begins °

The second secret character lies in that coffin. It's still pretty hard to believe that a secret character could be so easy to miss if you chose not to explore the game.



086 The Captain (Cid's Theme) °

One of the few characters that appear across multiple Final Fantasy titles albeit in different forms. Actually I think Cid is the only one that appears in every single one.

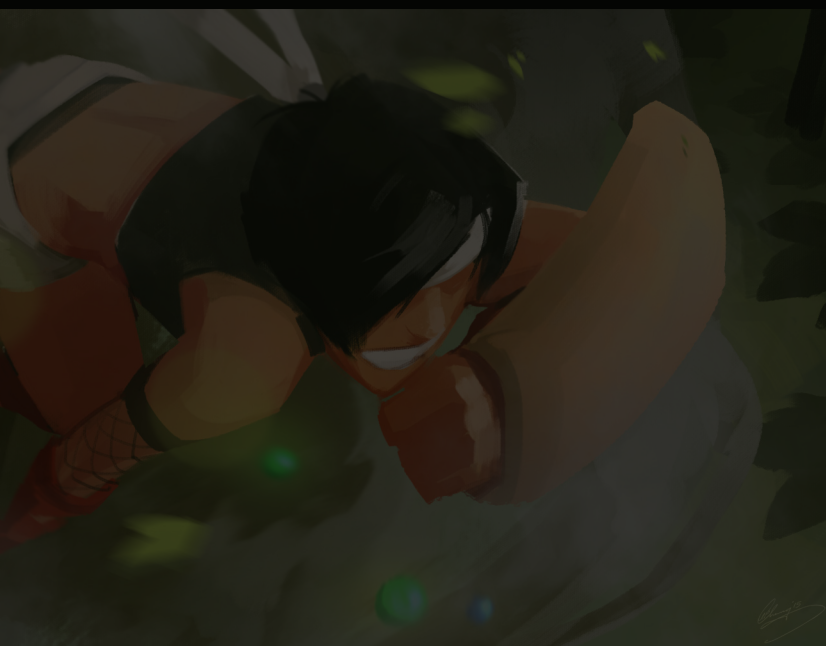


087 Steal the Tiny Bronco! °



088 Stolen Materia °

I think almost every single player was annoyed when this occurred. Having to fight without materia was suddenly much harder considering how much you relied on it until now.



089 Wutai °

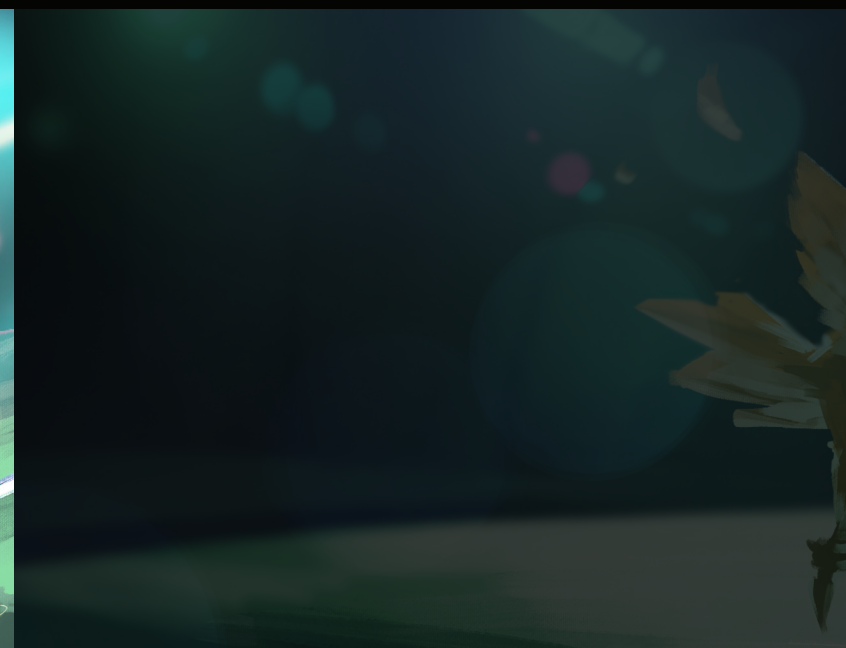




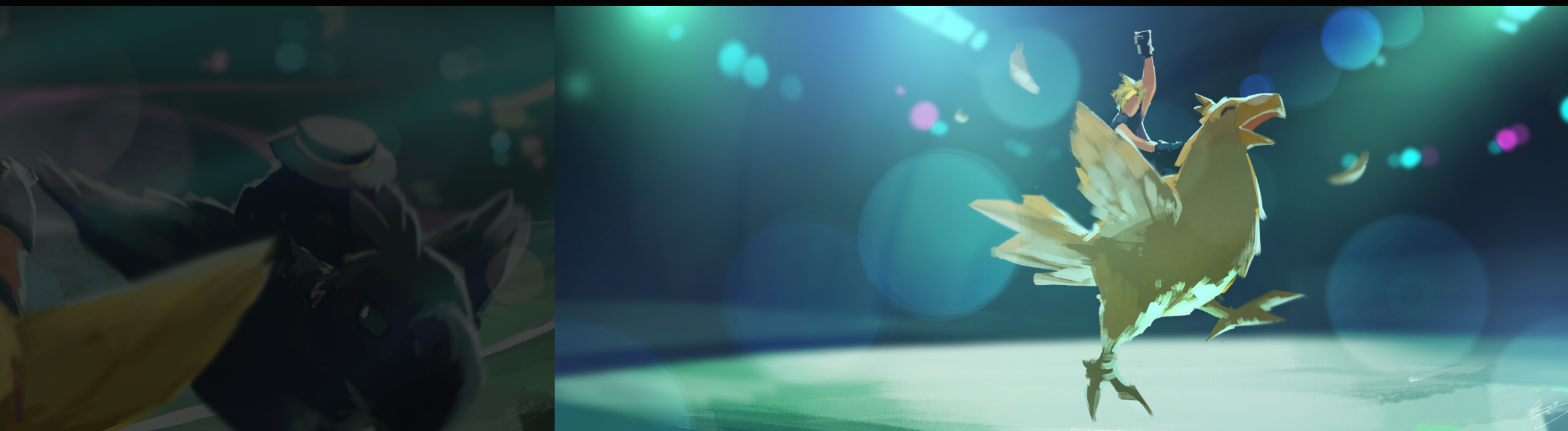
090 Fall of Corneo



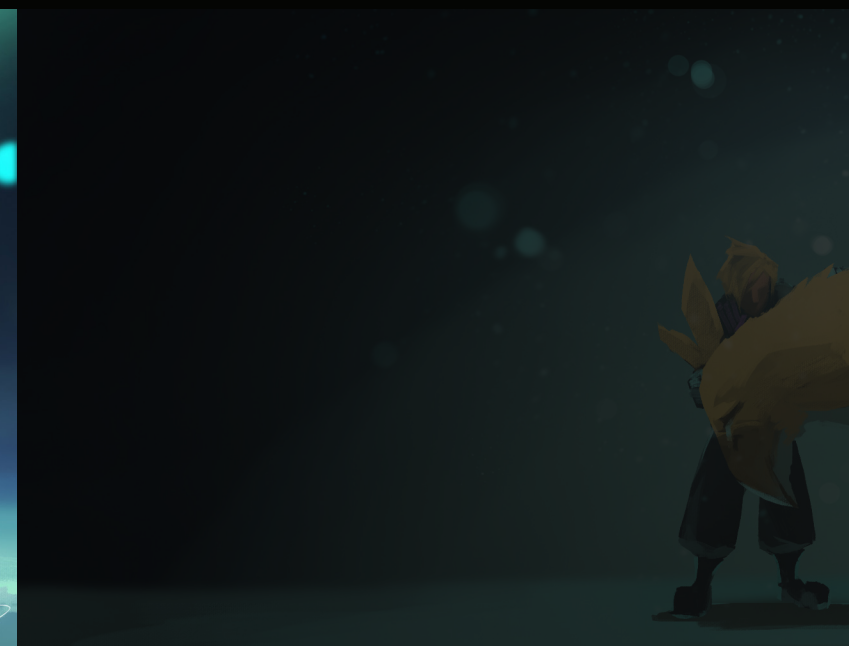
091 Racing Chocobos - Place Your Bets! °



092 Fiddle de Chocobo °

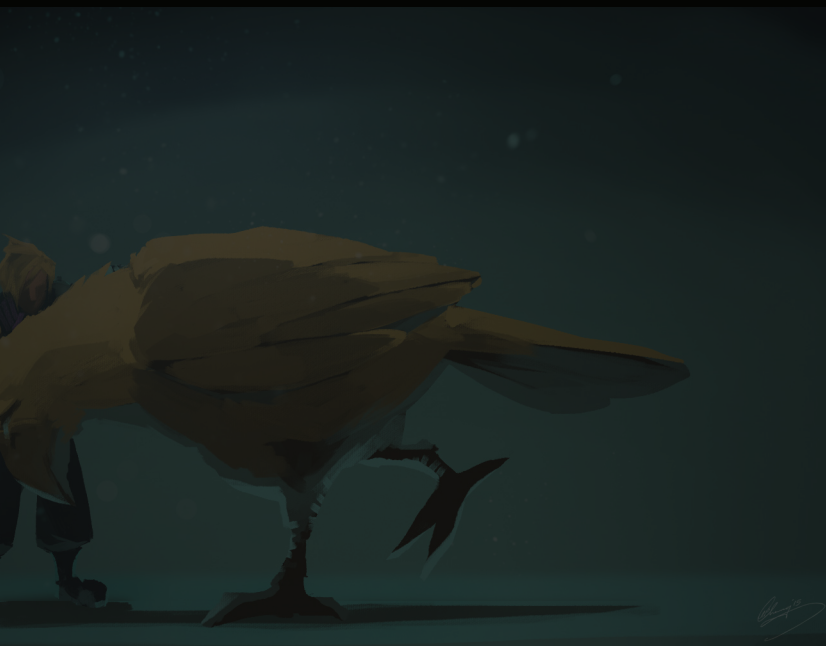


093 Jackpot! °





094 Tango of Tears °



095 Neon Arcade

This part of the Gold Saucer surely contained the most fun per square metre in the entire game!



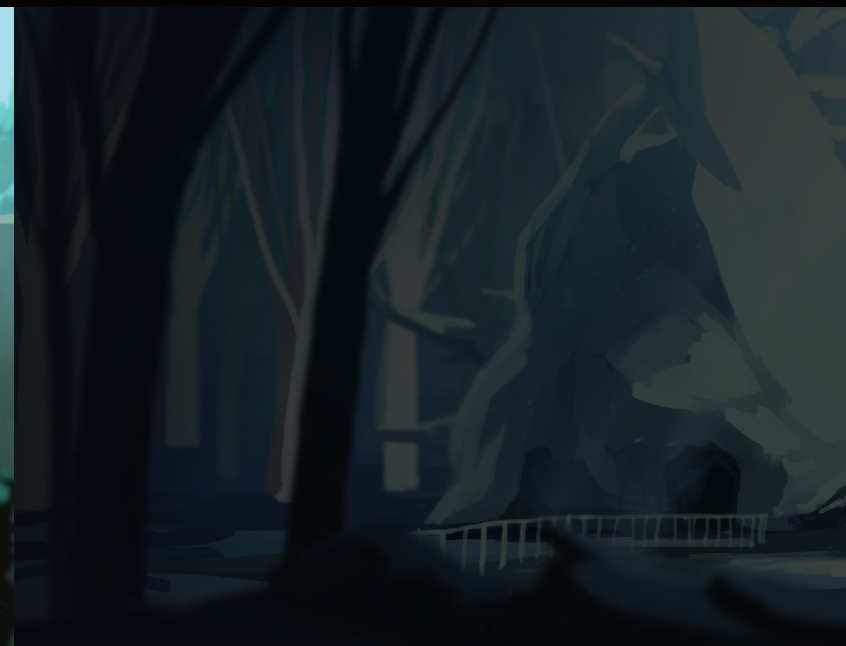
096 Debut °

In my eyes, the date scene, which I know is possible to have with many other characters, is really supposed to happen with Aeris.



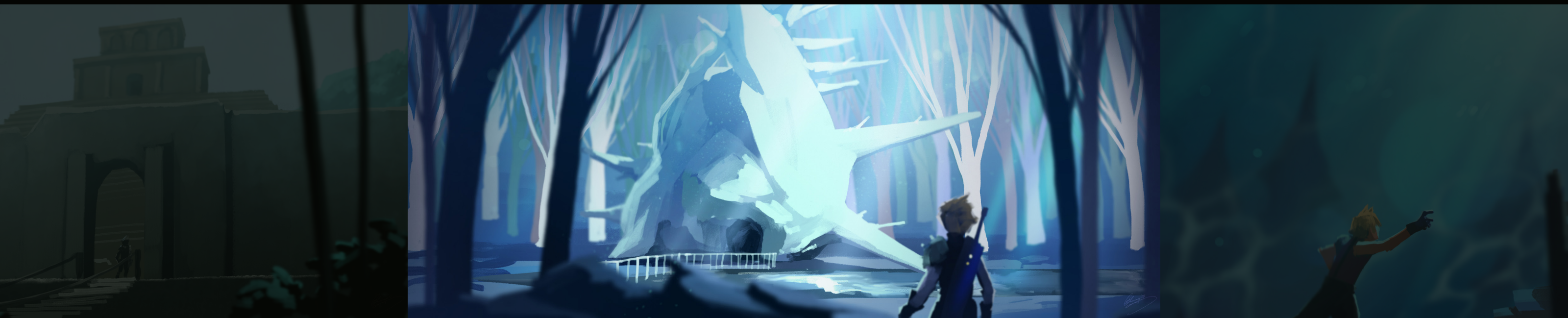
097 Words Drowned by Fireworks °

Just a quiet moment between the two, the last sweet moment before the big event.

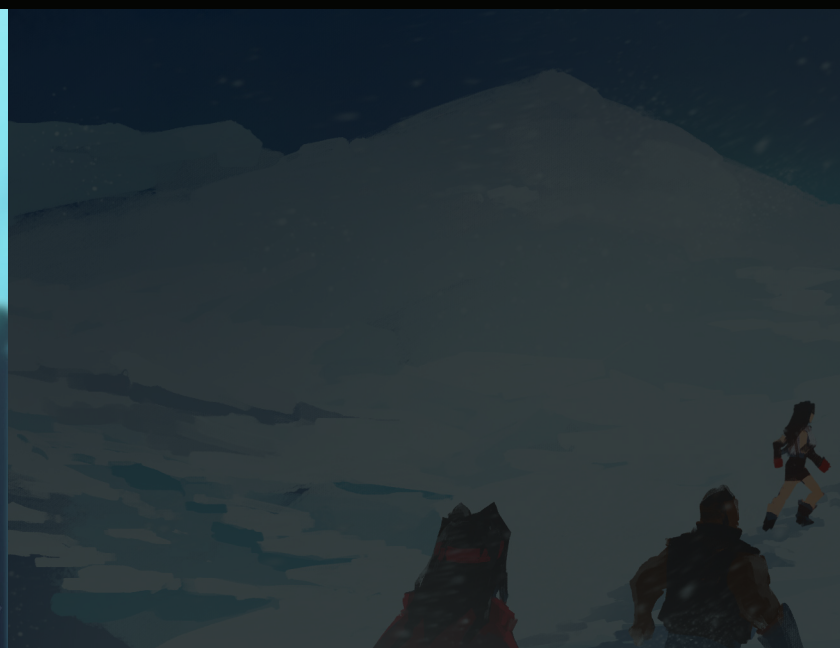


098 Forested Temple °

Aftering enter this place and facing the crazy puzzles that follow, it finally collapses in on itself and ends up as a crater!



099 Listen to the Cries of the Planet °

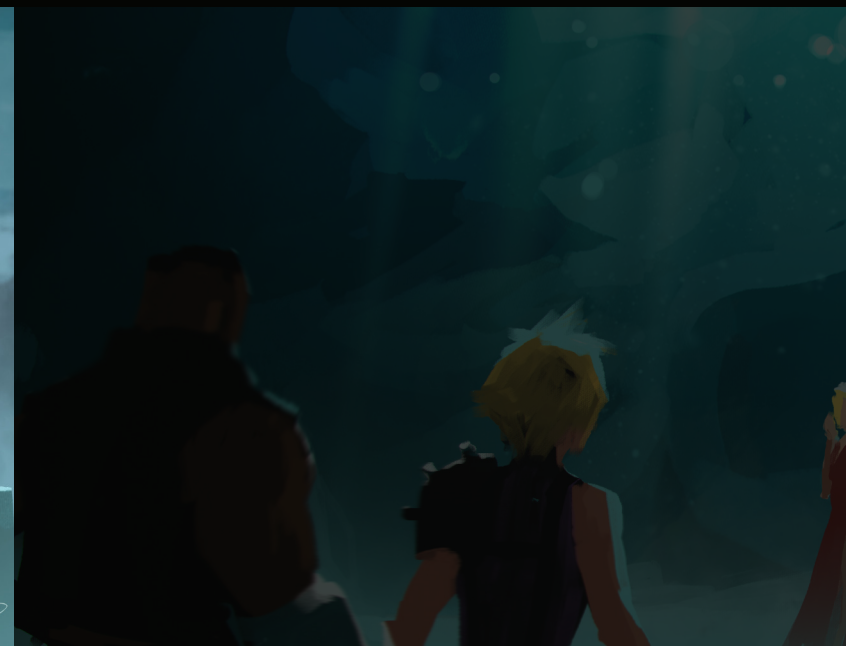


100 Hope Lost (Aerith's Theme) °

This is one of the scenes which I was concerned about painting. It's so well known in gaming circles that she dies and a lot of people know how she dies too. I felt pressure in doing the scene justice.



101 Buried in Snow °



102 The North Cave °



103 Reunion °



104 Who...Am I? °

At this point, though strongly hinted at before, I think it is shown that Tifa is truly Cloud's love interest. That's probably not a popular opinion but it is mine.



105 Shinra's Full-Scale Assault °



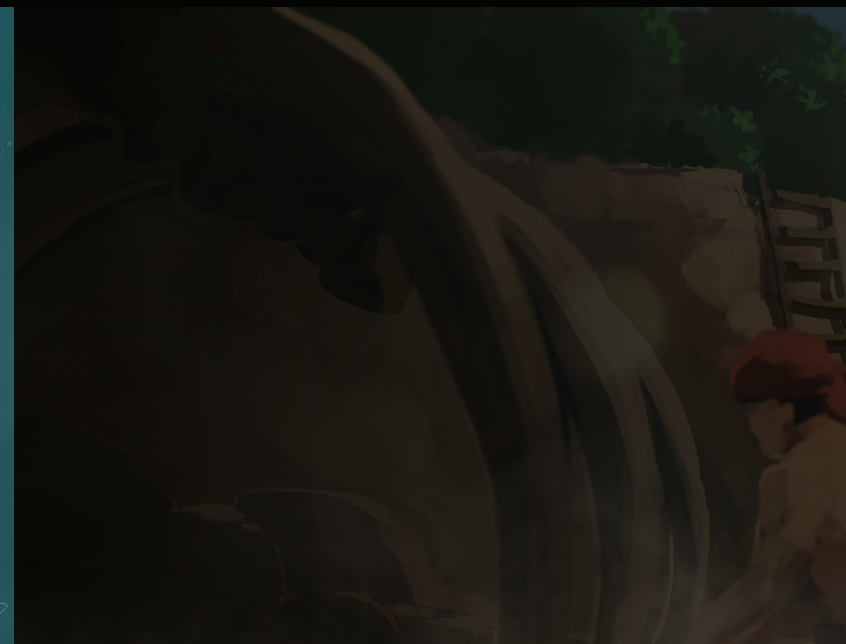
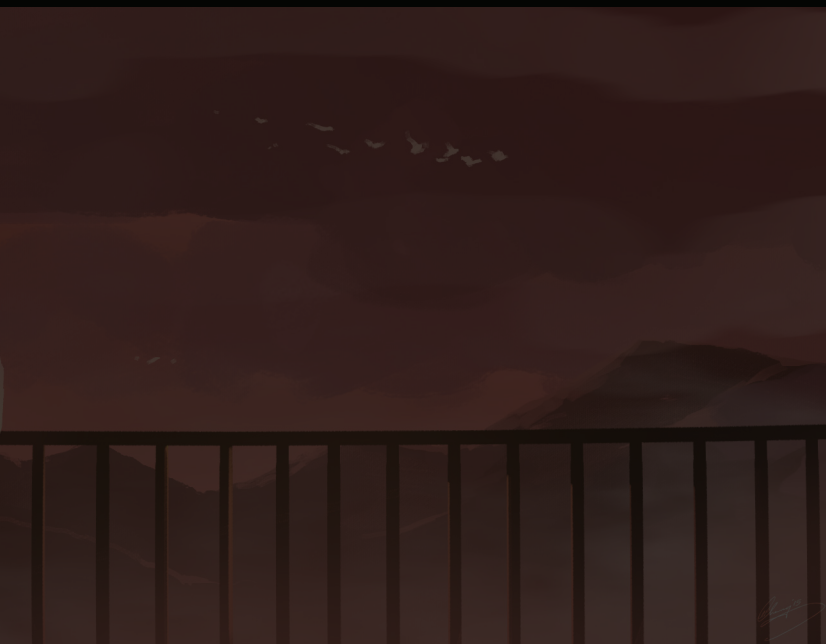
106 Slap!

There's a slapping minigame on top of a giant cannon.



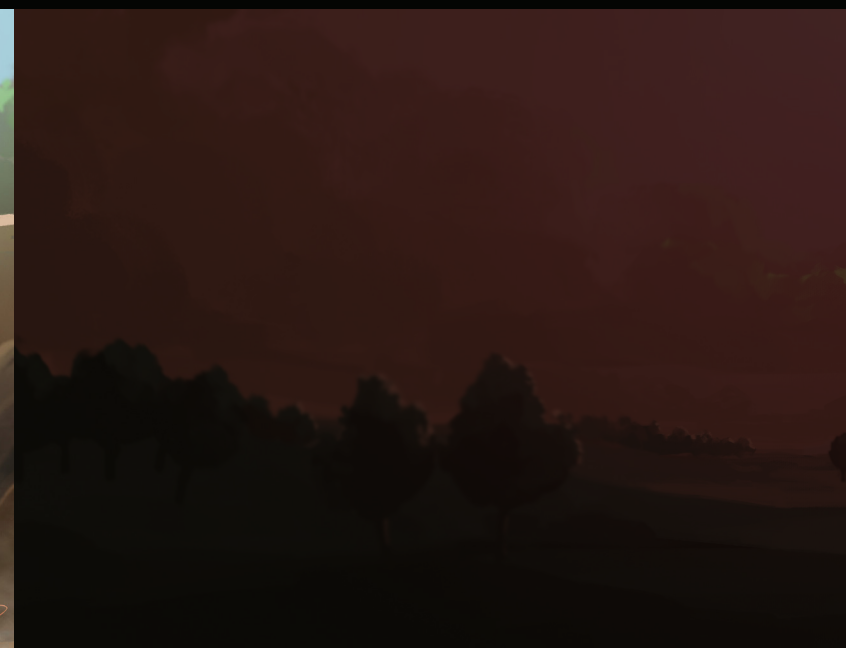
107 The Highwind Takes to the Skies °

This depicting can never actually be real at this particular point, it should actually be just Cid or at least one of the other members of the team. Cloud and Tifa are actually both in Mideel in the hospital at this moment. I had forgotten this point when I decided to paint this.



108 Secret of the Deep °

One of the scarier moments, especially as I have a fear of the ocean depths.

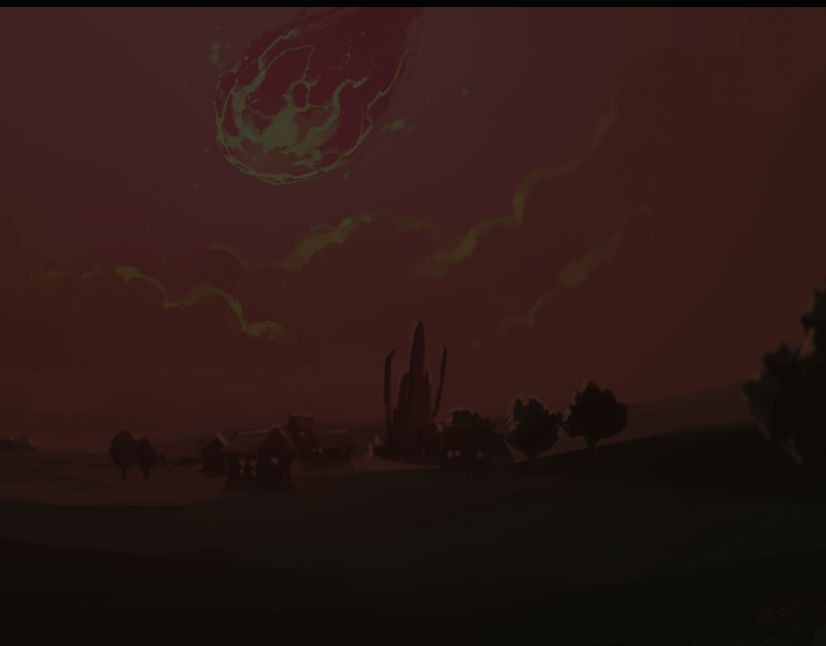


109 Provincial Town °



110 From the Edge of Despair °

This music actually matches better with image 104 but I had already painted and uploaded that one, so it was too late.



111 Other Side of the Mountain °

This scene probably isn't so recognised but it's within Cloud's mind where he remembers Tifa crying over her mother's death. The music is called 'Other Side of the Mountain' because in the story it is said that her mother was over there.



112 Zack Fair

Mirroring an earlier painting, this memory reveals the main character in the flashback was actually a guy called Zack, but who's that blond guy over there in the back?



113 A SOLDIER By Any Other Name

Cloud picks up Zack's buster sword and stabs Sephiroth, but it doesn't kill him just yet!



114 Masamune Held Back

The full truth revealed. Cloud catches up to Sephiroth who is trying to escape. Sephiroth stabs him with Masamune but Cloud grabs the sword while it's in his gut and throws Sephiroth off the platform into the Mako, killing him.

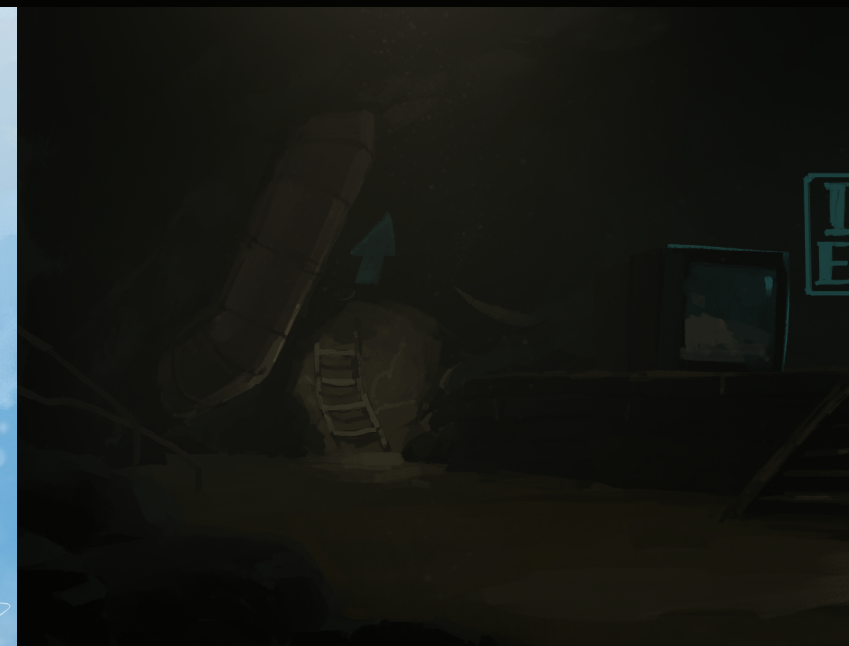


115 Hurry Up! °

Trying to stop a train crash.



116 Launching a Dream into Space °



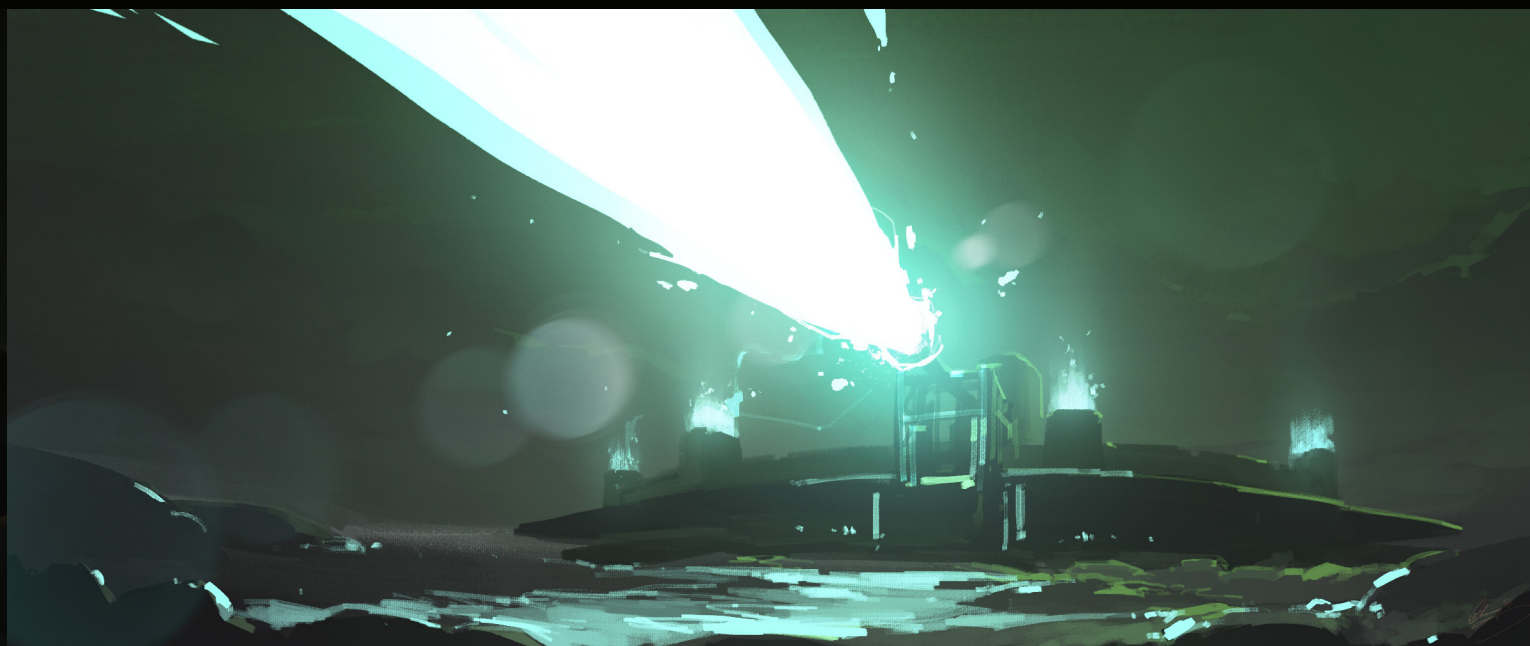
117 Countdown °

Cid finally gets to fulfill his dream; going into space.



118 Open Your Heart °

Inside Fort Condor.



119 Mako Cannon - The Destruction of Shinra °



120 Proud Clod

A three-armed red mech pre-dating Pacific Rim by many years.



121 Confronting Hojo

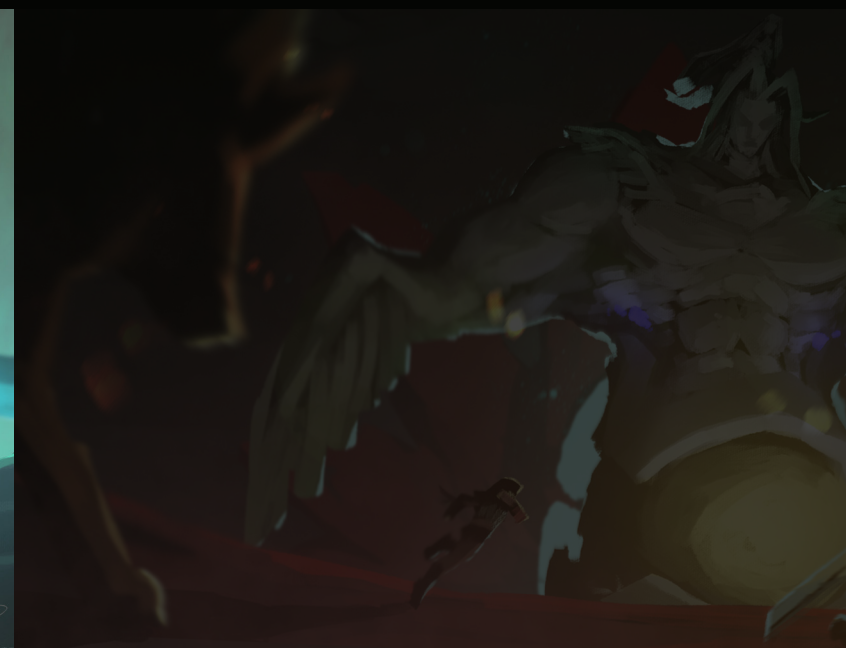


122 Under the Night Sky Once More

Mirroring one the earliest flashbacks from the game, Tifa and Cloud spend a night together under the stars, just before the final battles of the game.



123 Judgement Day °



124 JENOVA Absolute °

The first of the final bosses. They always look over-the-top and epic in proportions.

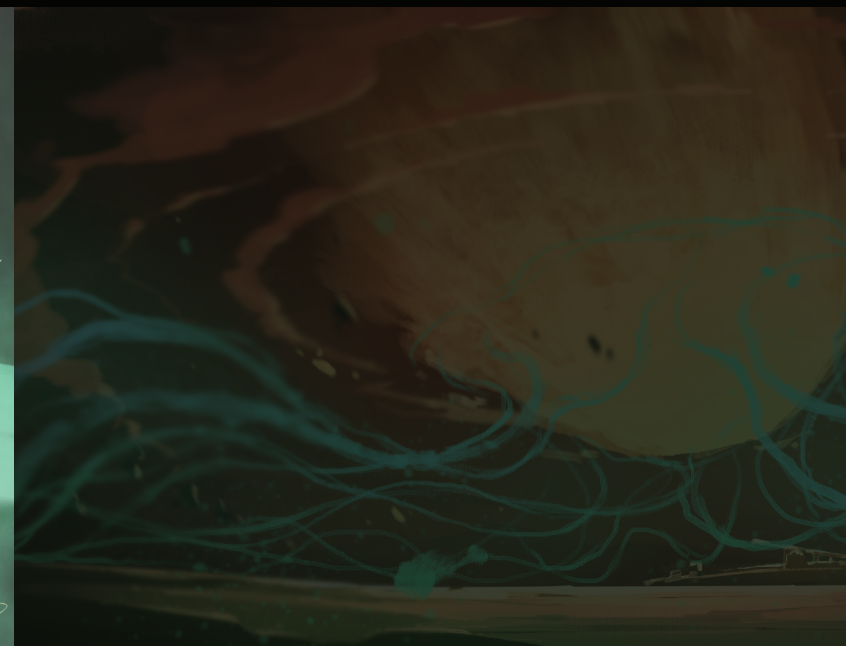


125 Birth of a God °



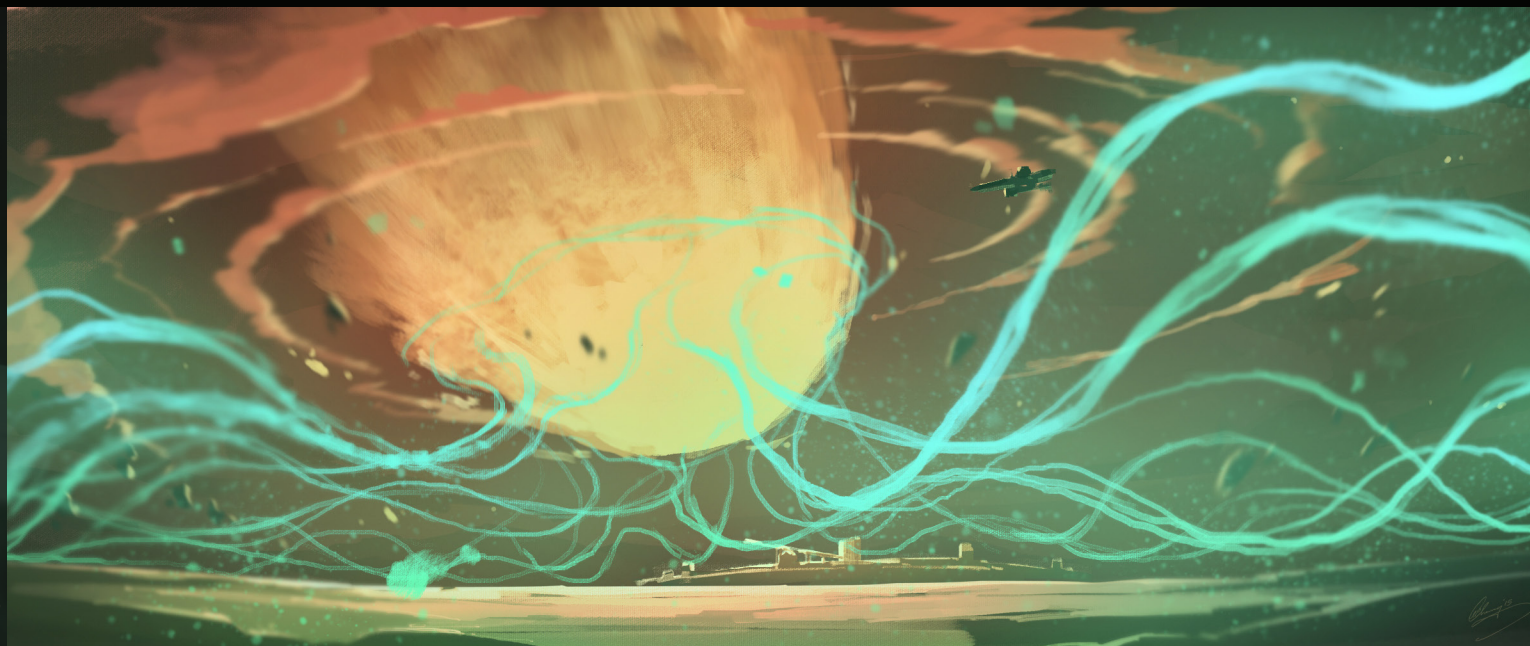
126 One-Winged Angel °

This is one of the most famous songs from any Final Fantasy title, with appropriately epic latin choral chanting.



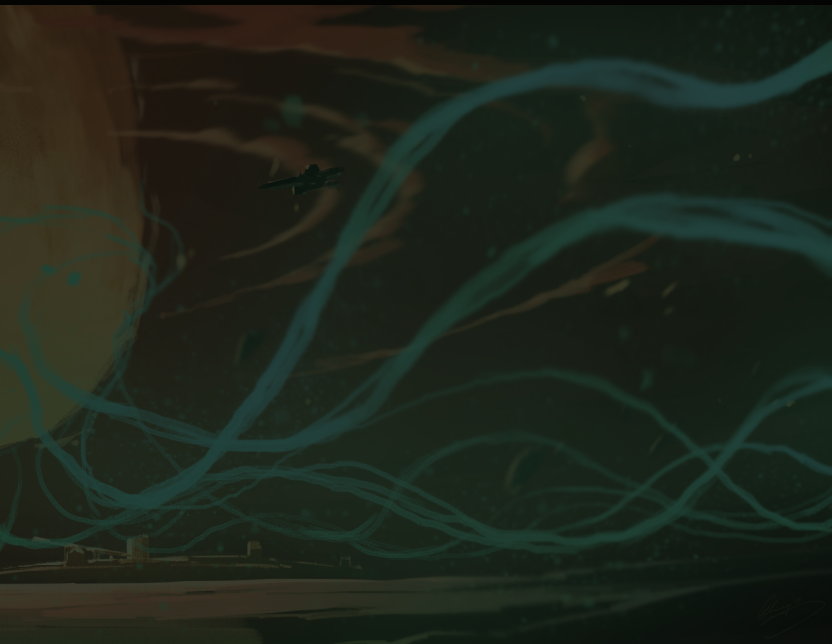
127 Omnislash

The final 'boss battle' which is unlosable. One on one against Sephiroth, your only real option is Omnislash, Cloud's final limit break.



128 The Planet's Crisis °

MUSIC COM
NOBUO UE



MUSIC COMPOSER
NOBUO UEMATSU



129 Staff Roll °

Not really a painting but it is one of the titles from the soundtrack so I decided to use this moment to highlight perhaps the main reason why I was willing to create this series, Nobuo Uematsu's awesome soundtrack to this game. Whenever I hear almost any track I can remember what happened at that moment of the game. I think that's a good sign.

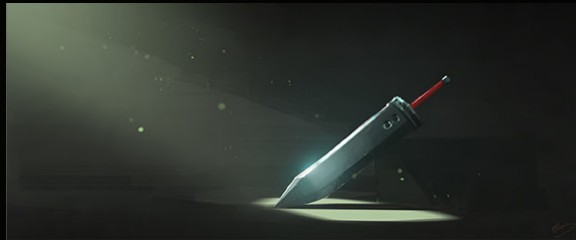
COMPOSER
YOSHINORI KAMEKURA



130 A Distant Future

The post-credits sequence, set something like 400 years after the events of the game.

THE THUMBNAIL COLLECTION



000 The Prelude



001 Opening



002 Bombing Mission



003 Mako Reactor



004 Escaping the Reactor



005 First Encounter



006 Train Jump



007 Anxious Heart



008 7th Heaven (Tifa's Theme)



009 The Promise



010 Train to Reactor 5 (Barret's Theme)



011 Hurry!



012 Lurking in the Darkness



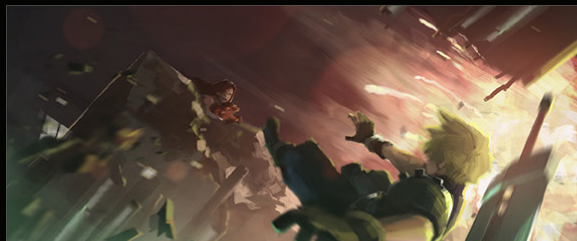
013 Shinra, Inc



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015 Fanfare



016 Cloud Falls



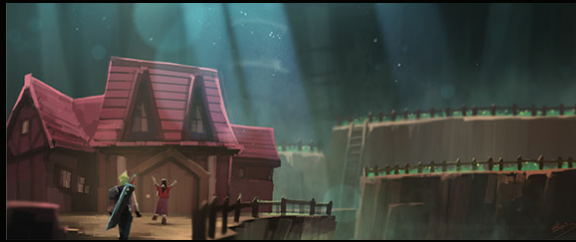
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019 Under the Rotting Pizza



020 Aeris' House



021 How You've Grown



022 Already Waiting



023 Playground Date



024 Kidnapped?



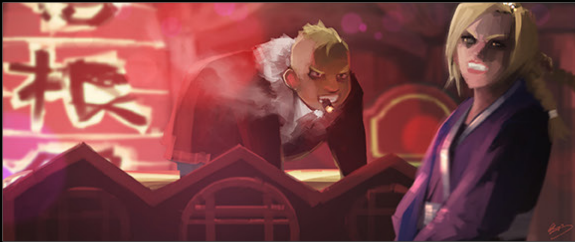
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026 Honey Bee Inn



027 Who...Are You?



028 Don of the Slums



029 Sewer Traversal



030 Infiltrating Shinra



031 Fall of Sector 7



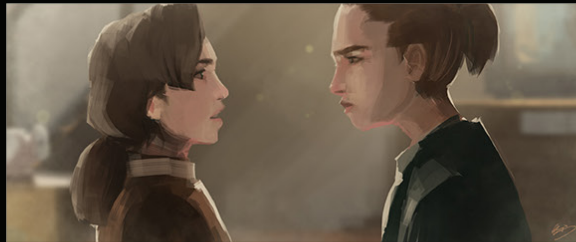
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034 Adopting the Ancient



035 Please Don't Cry



036 Marlene Reunited



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038 60 Floors?!



039 Sneaking Around HQ



040 The Specimen



041 Those Who Fight Further



042 It Talks (Red XIII's Theme)



043 Captured



044 Death of a President



045 Rufus



046 Crazy Motorcycle



047 Dear to the Heart



048 World Map (Main Theme of Final Fantasy VII)



049 On our Way



050 Goodnight, Until Tomorrow



051 Riding with Sephiroth



052 On that Day, 5 Years Ago



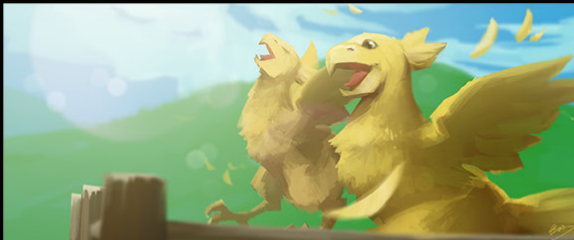
053 Memento of a Hero



054 In Flames



055 Farm Boy



056 Waltz de Chocobo



057 Electric de Chocobo



058 Cinco de Chocobo



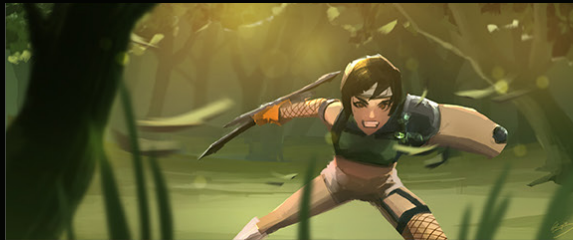
059 In Search of the Man in Black



060 Fort Condor



061 Phoenix Materia



062 Ninja Girl in the Forest



063 City of the Cannon



064 Mister Dolphin



065 The Highwind



066 Rufus' Welcoming Ceremony



067 It's Hard to Stand on Two Feet



068 Trail of Blood



069 Jenova



070 Continue



071 Costa del Sol



072 Beach Day



073 Old Railroads



074 Mark of a Traitor



075 Mining Town



076 Gold Saucer



077 The Puppet (Cait Sith's Theme)



078 Desert Wasteland



079 Dyne



080 Cosmo Canyon



081 Lifestream



082 The Great Warrior



083 Descendant of Shinobi



084 Those Chosen by the Planet



085 The Nightmare Begins



086 The Captain (Cid's Theme)



087 Steal the Tiny Bronco!



088 Stolen Materia



089 Wutai



090 Fall of Corneo



091 Racing Chocobos - Place Your Bets!



092 Fiddle de Chocobo



093 Jackpot!



094 Tango of Tears



095 Neon Arcade



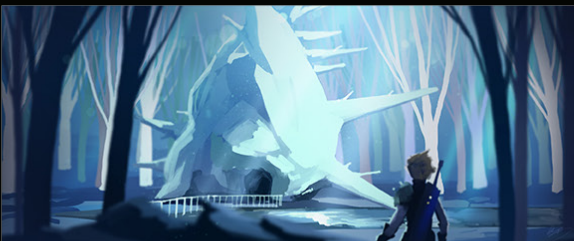
096 Debut



097 Words Drowned by Fireworks



098 Forested Temple



099 Listen to the Cries of the Planet



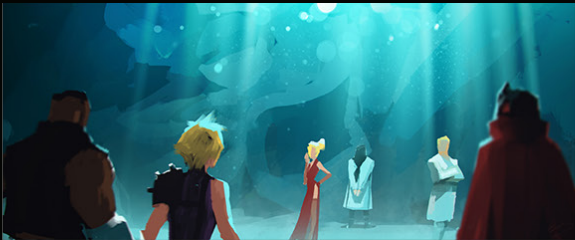
100 Hope Lost (Aerith's Theme)



101 Buried in Snow



102 The North Cave



103 Reunion



104 Who...Am I?



105 Shinra's Full Scale Assault



106 Slap!



107 The Highwing Takes to the Skies



108 Secret of the Deep Sea



109 Provincial Town



110 From the Edge of Despair



111 Other Side of the Mountain



112 Zack Fair



113 A SOLDIER by Any Other Name



114 Masamune Held Back



115 Hurry Up!



116 Launching a Dream Into Space



117 Countdown



118 Open Your Heart



119 Mako Cannon - The Destruction of Shinra



120 Proud Clod



121 Confronting Hojo



122 Under the Night Sky Once More



123 Judgement Day



124 JENOVA Absolute



125 Birth of a God



126 One-Winged Angel



127 Omnislash



128 The Planet's Crisis



129 Staff Roll



130 A Distant Future

ADDITIONAL FAN ART







ONE MAN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE THAT LASTS FOREVER...



31.JANUARY 1997

THANK YOU FOR VIEWING THIS SERIES

A Cinematic Speedpainting Series by **Lap Pun Cheung**

See you on the next project!