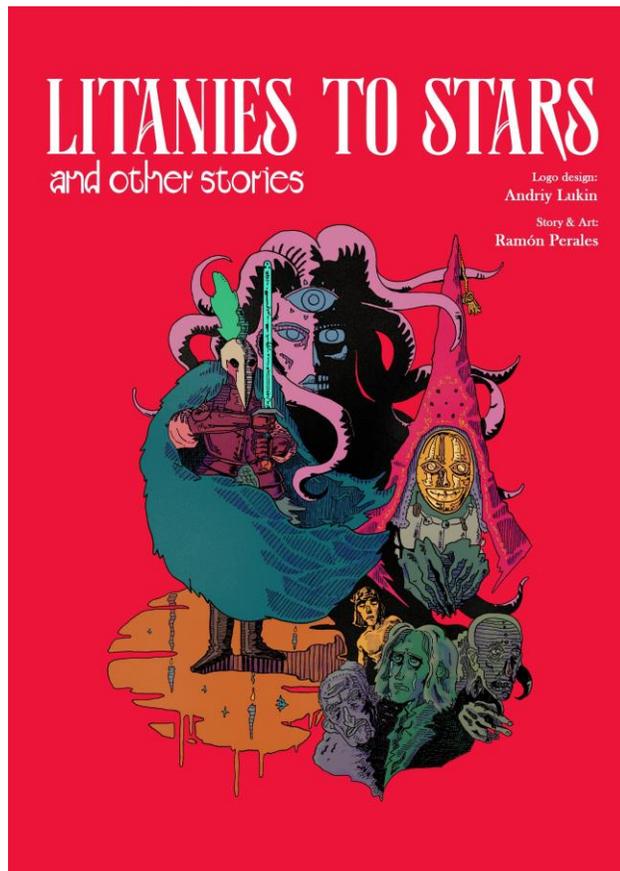


Ramón Perales is an artist and independent comics author from La Mancha, Spain. His work spans the breadth of science fiction and fantasy and, visually, is characterized by strong, clear linework and bold, hypersaturated colors. You can find him at his [website](#), on [twitter](#), or on [instagram](#). Today, he has graciously agreed to answer some questions us!

Logan: So on your website you state “I have been drawing since childhood, but it was not until summer 2019 that I decided to fully embrace my true love, and so I have been making comics ever since.” Was there anything in particular that happened in 2019 that prompted you to really embrace art in a way that you hadn’t before? And what specifically did this change look like- did you start drawing more? Focus more on improving? Start posting your work online, etc.?

Ramón: Actually yes, something happened. I assume (I know!) he will come up later in the interview, but it was the death of science-fiction and fantasy writer Gene Wolfe. It happened in April; it made me - somehow- realize that I hadn’t done anything worth sharing with the world, not ever. How had I betrayed myself over and over like that, when all my life I had admired authors like him thinking “someday I will do something this good”? When summer came and I was free from my college studies I sat myself down, binged a few Photoshop tutorials for digital coloring, and started planning my first finished comic ever. It was not until the Pandemic came, one year later, that I started to take it seriously and see myself growing while sharing it on social media, but that’s the truth and that was the beginning.



Logan: Who are your favorite artists? From your drawings, it's pretty clear that Gene Wolfe and Hayao Miyazaki are huge influences, but I'm curious as to who else inspires you.

Ramón: It's funny that Miyazaki hadn't really been an influence until my peers online (including you) started talking to me about the wonders of Nausicaä! But returning to writers, I think I have give Alan Moore the honor of making me fall in love with comics as a medium. I disagree with people that say Watchmen shouldn't be your first comic; besides the many, many Franco-Belgian adventures I had read in my childhood, Watchmen opened my eyes to what comics could aspire to be. My favorite of his works is his Swamp Thing run, by the way! I cannot forget Ursula K. Le Guin, whose scifi works are some of the most intelligent and beautiful prose I've ever read, together with Wolfe's.



Cartoonist-wise, I think that's more difficult to answer. I have a new favorite each month! Growing up, Albert Uderzo's *Asterix* was everything I wanted to consume. In college I learnt about the complex simplicity of Mignola and couldn't help but fall in love. Andrew MacLean has been an obsession for a while, I cannot stop thinking about Dani Strips' negative spaces and Artyom Trakhanov's inks just mesmerize me...

Logan: You have a comic, “Grotesque Jarcha for La Mancha,” about “the forgotten folklore of [your] native region. Are there any other folk tales from La Mancha you’d like to adapt or at least think should be better known? Do you think living in La Mancha has affected the kind of art you make?

Ramón: Answering your last question first, I think the cultural baggage of one’s native region is somewhat inescapable. La Mancha has always been, to a certain degree, one of the poorest regions in Spain, where tales and folklore has come and gone without much notice, and where there has always been some slight sense of nihilistic apathy towards its history. Even Cervantes chose it supposedly as some kind of twisted joke to mock the heroic tales of old creating a knight born in a laughable place! With the Jarcha I intend to take the figure of Don Quixote and turn him into a means to tell myths, stories and tales from the little villages I know; the little places I’ve been to. Just some humble, self-indulgent folk horror! Every little town here with a castle has ghosts and ancient warrior-prince stories. But if you ask me which myth you should know about, the truth is that most of them are lost to time.

Maybe because of that, I’ve always envied places where the culture of the past has been better studied. Maybe because of that many of my other stories almost always imply forgotten civilizations, traditions and technology somehow linked to the present. I crave for the exploration of that link between past and present, and both the good and evil consequences of that history.



Logan: I’ve mentioned it already, but I think it’s safe to say you’re a pretty big Gene Wolfe fan. You’re even drawing for and editing *The Book of Fuligin*, and upcoming comics anthology based off of Wolfe’s

Book of the New Sun (fun fact, dear readers, some of [my art's](#) actually going to be in there too!) What specifically attracts you to his work? And who are some other authors you would recommend?

Ramón: I think it's impossible for me to explain, just like love! It's the combination of so many things that seem made just for me. It's the absolute need for the use of the reader's imagination to fill the gaps, it's the sense of wonder mixed with horror, it's the most beautifully written prose by one of the worst persons you could imagine, it's the constant sense of fascination.

For a similar tone and vibe, read the excellent C.J. Cherryh, Mervyn Peake and Brian Catling (The Vorrh is magical). But before I spent a bit too much time talking about writers, let me get back to comics authors for a bit: absolutely do read Genie Espinosa, María Medem or Núria Tamarit if you have the chance to read in Spanish; then Simon Roy, Tony Millionaire, Evan Dahm, Taiyo Matsumoto, Daisuke Igarashi and please, please, please read Gipi (especially Land of the Sons).

Logan: You work full-time as a doctor- how on Earth do you manage to put out so much incredible artwork at the same time?

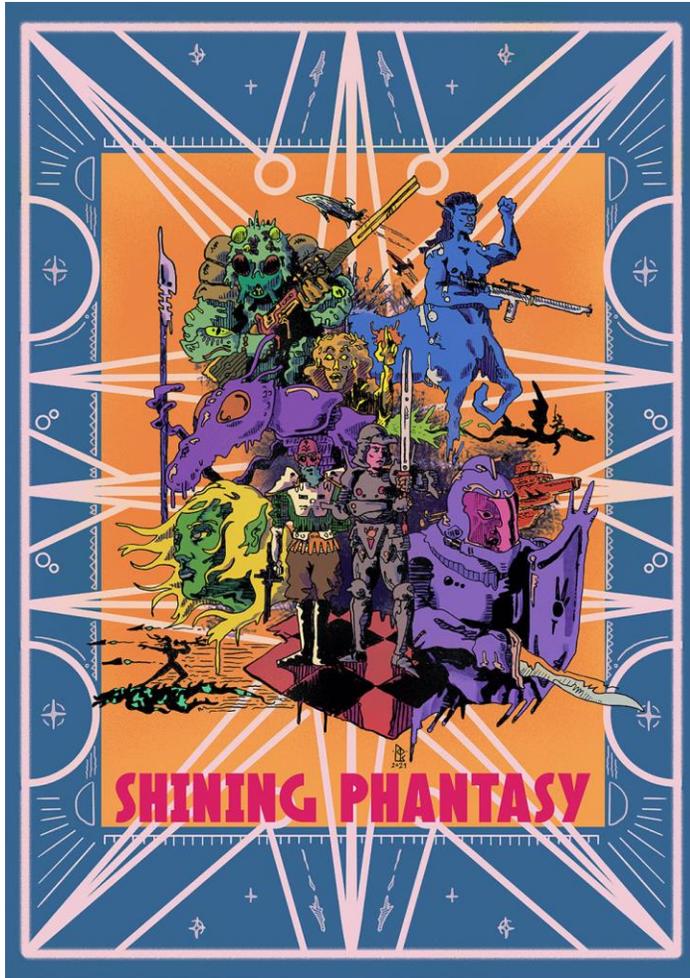
Ramón: It's quite the honor you yourself say that, thanks! <3

The answer is collaboration and community, I think. I have some "big" solo projects in mind, but I'm looking back this year and from January to this day, all my pages have been for anthologies and fanzines. I feel so absolutely grateful for that; it's kept me moving forward and drawing pages that I don't think I'd done if I weren't working on those projects with those people.

Logan: If you had all the time in the world to work on it, what comic would you make?

Ramón: It would be the comics I'm making today; I'd just spend more time with them and would make hundreds more until I learn how to properly make comics. Comics from the future unrecognizable Earth, beautiful comics, comics with horrible crimes, comics that I wish make people wonder and question what really is in the pages, as the greatest works have achieved with me. One can dream!

A bit cliché, I'll hope you can forgive me.



Logan: Anything else you want to say? Anything you want to ask me?

Ramón: I want to say thank you for having me. I also want to make a shout out to the art community I've recently found online. I really wouldn't be creating all this mess without that first [Goran](#) retweet, or that [Bruzzese](#) conversation, or that [Pbbeta](#) exchange, or... Sorry, I would fill three or four more pages like this.

Someone recently told me we are cultivating a nice little indie scene; it feels very good to believe that true.