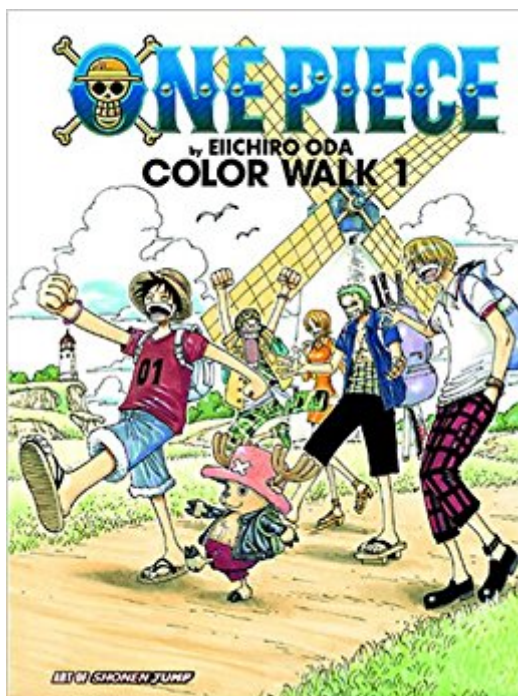


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One Piece Color Walk Art Book, Vol. 1 (The Art Of Shonen Jump)



Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Eiichiro Oda began his manga career at the age of 17, when his one-shot cowboy manga *Wanted!* won second place in the coveted Tezuka manga awards. Oda went on to work as an assistant to some of the biggest manga artists in the industry, including Nobuhiro Watsuki, before winning the Hop Step Award for new artists. His pirate adventure *One Piece*, which debuted in *Weekly Shonen Jump* magazine in 1997, quickly became one of the most popular manga in Japan.

Viz did a good job by translating and bringing this over here in the States. The only drawback is that it's THE ONLY ONE!! It also still uses terms that 4Kids used for their edited dub (even though it's licensed by Funimation now :D) like Zolo. And supposedly the translator didn't know who King Piccolo was (the villain in *Dragon Ball*) so they called him the "Demon King" for the Interview part of the book. Overall though I bought this just cause I wanted to see the vivid color works of Oda's brilliant manga and that was brought here perfectly with this release. My question now is if Viz is going to put more effort into releasing the other color walks as well, We already have too much naruto merchandise at boarders, so why not push up the *One Piece* stuff as well Viz? C'mon There are *One Piece* fans in the US too!!!

This art book is gorgeous, I just need to say that. It's what you would expect out of an anime art book, with nice thick and very colorful pages. Most of the art is from earlier on in the series, which is

actually pretty good, because that's what made One Piece so great. There are a lot of abstract shots and poses that aren't from the manga or anime (big plus). You can actually see how the mangaka's style changes over time too. I got this for my girlfriend as a Christmas present and she loved it to pieces. It would make a great gift for anyone that loves this series, and who doesn't?!

Thank you!

If you consider yourself a fan of One Piece, you're going to love this book. As an "artbook," Color Walk 1 fulfills a very important role for the One Piece manga. During the serialization of a black-and-white comic such as this, the author will still typically draw many illustrations in full-color. These may take the form of promotional images used in ads, cover illustrations for the anthology magazine the comic appears in, and even special title- and story pages within the comic. The problem with this practice is that most nonessential art get tossed out in the production of collected volumes, and what's more, Japanese graphic novels (called "tankobon") are generally reprinted completely in black and white, so even the color illustrations that are kept are reduced to a mere grayscale shadow of their former glory. The result is that all too often, the color art for many series is seen only once, then disappears for all time. That's where artbooks like this one come to the rescue. Color Walk 1 collects all (or very nearly all) the magnificent full-color artwork drawn by Eiichiro Oda during the serialization of the first 81 chapters of One Piece, from August 1997 to April 1999 (or January 2003 to November 2005 in America). That includes full-color title page spreads, promotional illustrations (some never-before-seen in America), cover art for both Weekly Shonen Jump *and* the graphic novels, and even panels from the manga proper. It doesn't end there, though: also included are sketches from the planning stages of the comic, illustrations from Oda's pre-One Piece days, and a fold-out map of the sea known as "East Blue". The cover illustration's an original, too. Of course, quantity would mean nothing without quality, and Oda delivers in droves: his illustrations are imaginative, well thought-out, playful, and dramatic. Oda likes to use these images to put his characters in all sorts of situations outside of the comic, and these are where his talent really shines. Some of his artwork early on in the series tends a little toward the cliché pirate stereotype, but luckily, this makes up only a small part of the whole. And, if all the artwork isn't enough for you, there's also an exclusive round-table interview with none other than Akira Toriyama, creator of Dragon Ball and Dr. Slump, and character designer for such videogames as Chrono Trigger and the Dragon Quest series. It's definitely a must-read if you're a fan of either author. For all that greatness, I do have a few nitpicks with the localization. First, though the included panels from

the manga are translated to English, not all of them match what has previously been released in Viz's adaptation of the manga itself. I'm not sure why this is, but it annoys me slightly, even though the meaning isn't changed significantly. Second, the translator doesn't seem to have a good grasp of Dragon Ball in English: In the Akira Toriyama interview, "Pilaf" is twice translated with a direct romanization ("Pirafu"), Piccolo-Daimao (the Great Demon King) is called "the Lord of Darkness," and several other characters' names use non-standard spellings that are nonetheless recognizable. Luckily, these odd translations don't substantially affect my overall appreciation of the book; it may not be a perfect translation, but it's pretty close. A few words of warning, however: If you've been reading the manga in English, you'll want to read up through volume 9 (or the chapters thereof) before you get this book. It isn't just for spoilers: having read the manga also helps you put the images into context both chronologically and in terms of the story. There's also the matter of a certain anthropomorphic reindeer being on the cover, as well, but you'll get to know him sooner or later. If you follow the version of One Piece aired on TV, you may be a little put off by the contents: yes, Sanji smokes, the crew drinks alcohol on occasion, and people bleed. Don't fault the series for this, though; that's how it was intended to be (even in the animated version), and besides, there are still plenty of images that feature pure light-hearted fantasy, without all that pesky "drama" to worry about. There's something for everyone, here. I'm (pleasantly) surprised that Viz released this book when they did: Color Walk 1 was released in Japan when One Piece was nearing volume 20, but as of this writing, volume 9 has yet to come out in English, and the chapters it contains were only finished up in the November 2005 issue of Shonen Jump. But all the same, I'm appreciative that Viz went to the lengths it did to bring over such a high-quality version of such a wonderful little artbook. Now we'll all have to look forward to when Viz puts out Color Walk 2 in... 2008, or so. In closing: If you like One Piece, buy this book. You won't be disappointed.

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