

DESIGN AND BUILD  
CHI WANG

RESIN KIT PRODUCTION  
GIGA GARAGE

PHOTOGRAPHY  
GEOVANI ALEKSANDR

STORY  
CHI WANG



## ● ONIRAIZER

### RISE OF THE D E M O N

Several years ago, while managing an anime store in Florida, I noticed our best-selling products were Gundam/robot kits and anime girl figurines. Due to my background in comic books, I thought about creating an original project incorporating these two elements to help promote the shop on social media. The result was ONIRAIZER, a sci-fi comic featuring giant robots with themes and visuals centered on “Oni”, a type of monster from traditional Japanese folklore.





HOKUSAI (1760-1849)



KAWANABE KYŌSAI, 1864

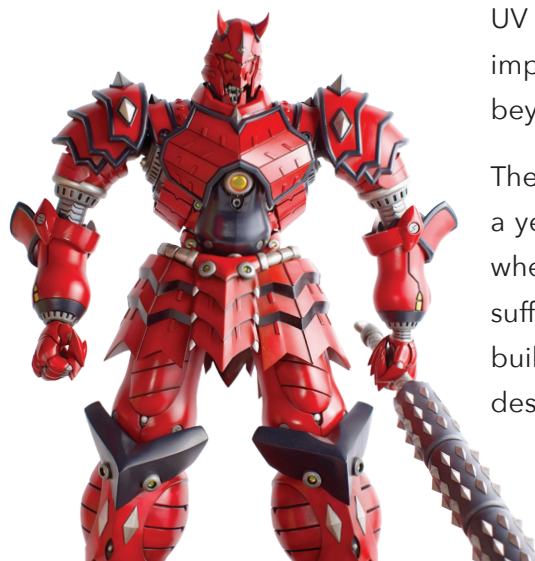


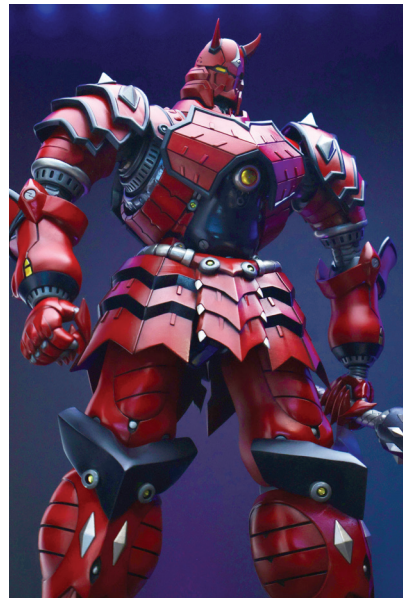
**These mythological monsters are often depicted as demonic, fearsome, ogre-like creatures with horns, claws, and sharp teeth. Commonly seen as red or blue skinned in traditional Japanese art (above). They can represent evil, misfortune, and chaos, but also strength, protection, and overcoming adversity. In order to incorporate these ideas into a robot, I decided to take the high-tech route for these creatures and asked myself the question: "What if the Oni were a race of aliens that had visited ancient Japan?"**

**THE CHALLENGE** I then faced was designing an original "Hero Mech" that would be appealing to Gundam fans but still unique. I also knew the pilot for this machine has to be just as cool looking as well. I kept asking questions during the design phase - What are the aesthetics of their culture? How would they build a bipedal war machine in their image? What kind of weapons would they employ? Combining a hulk-ish monster with the styling of a samurai was the goal that I was aiming. Overall, it took me about 3 months of countless drawings and sketches to finally reach what you see here - A symbol of raw strength cover in sharp armor plates, welding a spiked club for close and brutal combat!

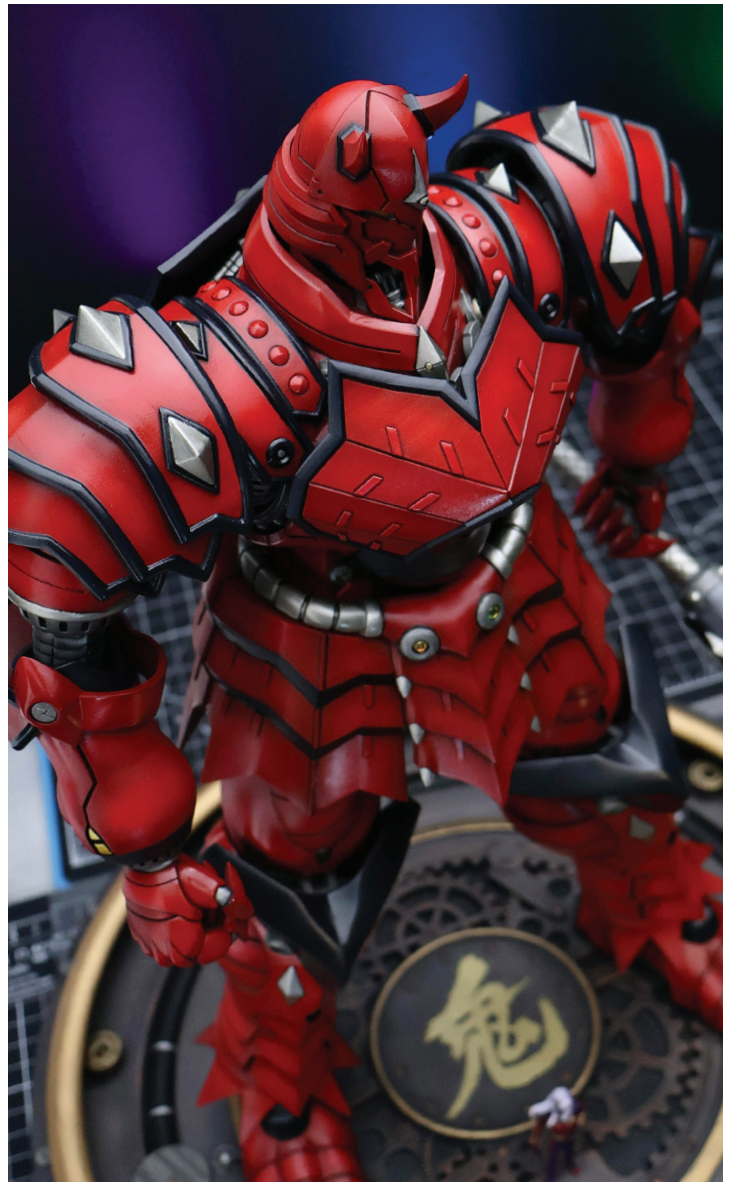
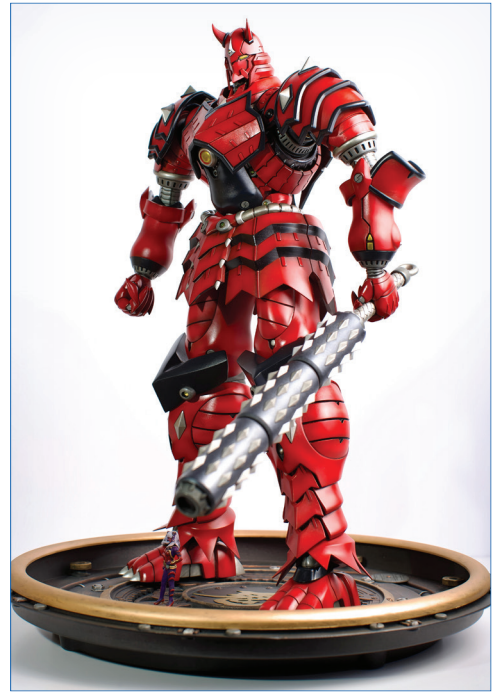
This prototype statue is 1/35 in scale and measures 40cm in height. It was originally divided into 20 pieces that assembled into a non-moving standing pose. The kit is produced by Giga Garage, a Taiwan design studio with professional experiences in developing toys for the Asian market. They were able to study my artwork, make a CAD render on the computer, and print it out in UV resin in just 3 weeks! I was very impressed by their efficiency and beyond satisfied with the result.

The actual build process took about a year and half working on and off whenever I had spare time. I also suffered a lot of delays during the build due to the fact that 3D printed design tends to be a lot more brittle,





**"My goal was a combination of hulk-ish monster and samurai styling."**





so many small pieces can break easily. There were also many noticeable print defects that had to be corrected. I either had to smooth out uneven print lines by putty and sanding, or correct an entire piece by reshaping with epoxy putty. I also made adjustments to the joints with metal rods and epoxy putty to help create a sense of motion in its stance. As for the painting process, airbrushing was done for the large areas and detailing was finished by hand brushing. I used Tamiya acrylic paint for the red and blacks, and Gunze lacquer for the metallic colors. It is finally coated with Quick Shine to gave it a semi-gloss finish.

Giga Garage provided me with no display base so I had to come up with one on my own. I generally prefer to have my models on a circular base instead of a square or rectangular shape so it can be rotated for viewing at any angle. But due to the size of the kit, it was also not easy to find something off the shelf. In shopping for ideas, I came across a \$20 clock in Walmart that had gears molded on the surface. It had the right look and feel and it happens to be the right size. I stripped off its clock mechanism, and added additional nuts, bolts and cables found in home depot. The symbol at the center of the base is the Japanese character for Oni, made by slowly cutting a styrene sheet. To contrast it with the main subject, I purposely hand-brushed most

of the details to give it a dirtier and rougher texture. The base was then sprayed with a matt coat to dull down all the metallic colors, so it does not out shine the metal colors on the robot.

I wanted a figure next to the mech for size and scale comparison. It's an alien robot so naturally it should be paired with an alien pilot. After some searching, I came across a 1/35 scale WWII pinup girl figure by Master Box. I mixed and matched a few pieces to get the basic pose, engraved lines with an exact-o blade, and added details such as armor, belt and horns with epoxy putty.

The eventual goal down the line is to turn this into a plastic injection kit with moving joints and all the bells and whistles of a Gundam model. But in the meantime for those who would like to print this out and build it as a resin kit, you can make a purchase of the STL file here: [www.brushpix.com](http://www.brushpix.com) - CW

**CHI WANG** is a long time member of IPMS Orlando chapter in Florida. His primary interest in the hobby are sci-fi, anime and aircraft model kits. He is also a 30-year professional writer/artist in the American comic book industry, with extensive knowledge in both Western and Japanese art-style and how it applies to story-telling in comics, anime and manga. He currently owns and operates Excel Comics, an online publisher of original comic contents for the digital age.