

START HERE

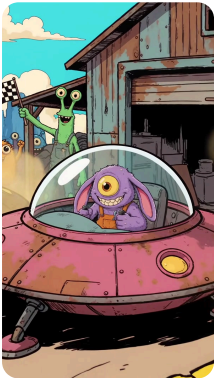
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JOHN SAVAGE AI / ARCADS CARTOON GUIDE

AI cartoons that don't look like AI slop

My exact Arcads workflow: the look, the character, 4 shots. Every prompt is copy-paste ready.



01

Lock the visual

Image tab · Nano-Banana Pro · 9:16
· 2K

02

Character first, then the place

Image tab · attach your 4 look
pictures

03

Four shots, 8 seconds each

Video tab · Seedance 2.5 · 9:16 · 8 s

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TRY ARCADS →

Lock the visual

Arcads → Studio → Image tab · Nano-Banana Pro · 9:16 · 2K

1 Upload 3 reference pictures of the look you love (paperclip).

2 Make ~9 look pictures with this prompt pattern (one generation per scene idea):

A brand new illustration in exactly the same art style, colours and line work as the reference images. Scene: **[your scene]**. No text, no letters, no signs, no logos.

SCENE IDEAS I USED

three goofy alien commuters waiting at a rusty desert bus stop shelter...

a tall green alien with three wobbly eye stalks watering a garden of giant spiky cacti outside a tin shack...

a chubby tangerine alien with a toothy grin flipping burgers at a retro silver roadside diner trailer...

3 Pick the 4 you like most.



4 Turn them into ONE style description and paste it at the END of every prompt.

MY STYLE DESCRIPTION

retro sci-fi comic book illustration, bold slightly wobbly black ink outlines with fine hatching and stipple texture, halftone dot shading and printed paper grain in every shadow, flat saturated colours only: cyan sky, lemon yellow desert, magenta pink, lilac, tangerine orange and cobalt blue, puffy cream clouds, whimsical goofy alien monsters with big single eyes or eye stalks and toothy grins, rusty retro-futurist props, wide alien desert with mesas and buttes, flat 2D shading, no gradients, no 3D render, no glossy Pixar look, no text, no letters, no logos

Character first, as one image. Then the place, same style

Image tab, attach your 4 look pictures

Character

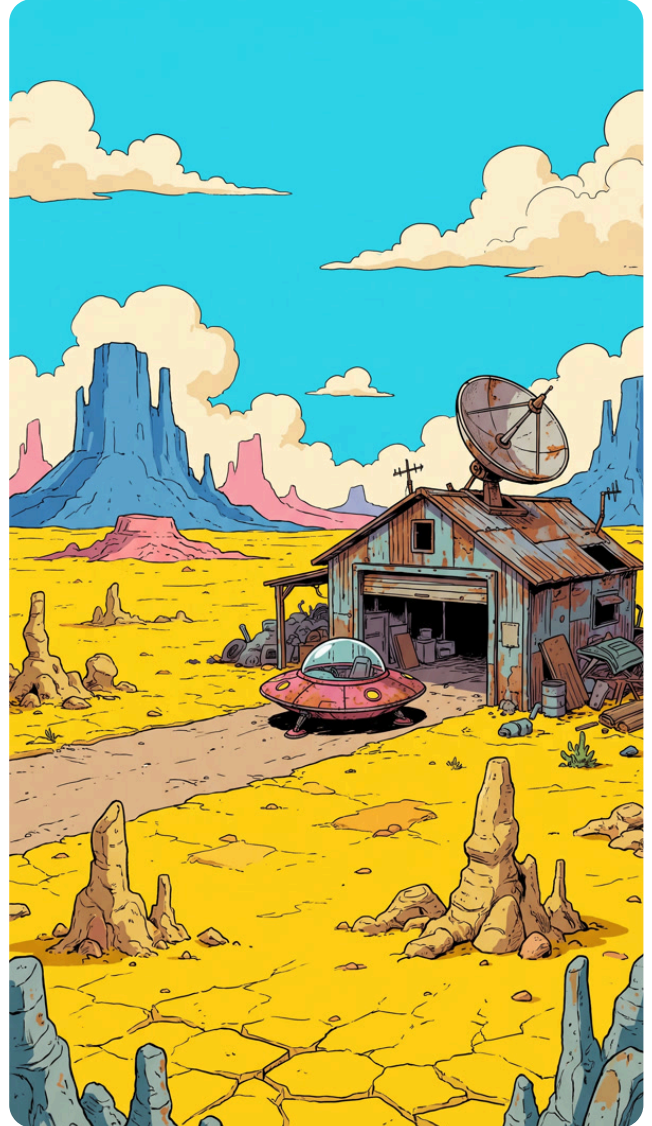
IMAGE · NANO-BANANA PRO



Character design, one image: one full-body purple fuzzy alien mechanic with a single big yellow eye, long floppy rabbit-like ears with pink insides, two small fangs and a goofy grin, wearing patched orange overalls with a wrench sticking out of the pocket, standing relaxed and facing the viewer, whole body visible and centred, on plain lemon yellow sand under a plain cyan sky, only this one character, [STYLE]

Place

IMAGE · NANO-BANANA PRO



The place, same style, no characters: a wide alien desert at noon, a dirt road leading to a rusty roadside UFO repair garage with a satellite dish on the roof, a small pink flying saucer with a glass dome parked out front, lilac and magenta mesas, a few cacti, puffy cream clouds in a cyan sky, [STYLE]

Four shots, 8 seconds each

Video tab

MODEL	FORMAT	LENGTH	QUALITY	AUDIO	CREDITS
Seedance 2.5	9:16	8 s	1080p	On	832 per shot



image1 image2 image3

Attach: image1 = your character, image2 = your place, image3 = a look picture with extra characters (ref_7). Type @ to reference them.

Tip: put "high-energy cartoon action, smooth fluid animation with squash and stretch and snappy timing" before the style for motion.



SHOT 1

@image1 at the garage from @image2 with the goofy aliens from @image3: Race day. A crowd of different aliens cheers, a tall green alien with eye stalks waves a checkered flag, a chubby blue blob alien and a tiny orange alien jump up and down, three mismatched rusty flying saucers rev up side by side, the purple mechanic grips the lever of his pink saucer and grins, the engines spit sparks and yellow dust, fast push-in on his face, high-energy cartoon action, smooth fluid animation with squash and stretch and snappy timing, [STYLE]



SHOT 2

@image1 racing through the desert from @image2 against the aliens from @image3: Low tracking shot at full speed, the pink saucer and two rival saucers flown by the green eye-stalk alien and the blue blob alien zoom through a narrow lilac canyon, the green alien's saucer bumps the pink one, sparks fly, rocks crumble behind them, whip pan, high-energy cartoon action, smooth fluid animation with squash and stretch and snappy timing, [STYLE]



SHOT 3

@image1 in his pink saucer from @image2: Close-up, his engine bursts into orange flames, he bangs it with his wrench, it roars into a turbo boost, the saucer stretches and blasts through a giant lilac rock arch past the rival saucers, the camera spins with him, high-energy cartoon action, smooth fluid animation with squash and stretch and snappy timing, [STYLE]



SHOT 4

@image1 back at the garage from @image2 with the crowd of aliens from @image3: The pink saucer skids across the finish line in a huge cloud of yellow dust, the crowd of different goofy aliens jumps and cheers, confetti and smoke rings fill the cyan sky, the mechanic pops out of the glass dome and waves his wrench, the camera pulls back wide, high-energy cartoon action, smooth fluid animation with squash and stretch and snappy timing, [STYLE]

Cut the 4 shots together = your 30-second animation.

10 high-motion 15-second scenes

Video tab

MODEL	FORMAT	LENGTH	QUALITY	AUDIO	CREDITS
Seedance 2.5	9:16	15 s	1080p	On	1,560 each

Attach your still as image1. Paste the scene, then this MOTION BLOCK (copy box):

Every element is animated and nothing is ever still: fur ripples and bristles, clothing and fabric flutter, fold and swing, liquids splash, drip, wobble and flow, smoke, fire and steam billow and curl, clouds drift, dust and tiny particles float, background details move. High-motion, highly detailed, smooth fluid 2D hand-drawn animation with squash and stretch, snappy timing and expressive faces and eyes, dynamic camera moves. Keep the exact art style of `@image1`: bold slightly wobbly black ink outlines, fine hatching and stipple, halftone dot shading and printed paper grain, flat saturated colours exactly as in `@image1`, no 3D render, no glossy Pixar look, no text, no letters, no logos.



01 Mechanic + saucer

Shot 1 (0–5 s): wide shot, the purple one-eyed mechanic cranks a bolt on the pink saucer's leg with his wrench, the wrench clanks, thick orange smoke billows and curls out of the saucer's chimney, his long ears flop with every turn. **Shot 2 (5–10 s):** close-up, the bolt pops off and pings past his eye, the saucer coughs a giant smoke ring, his eye goes wide and his ears blow back. **Shot 3 (10–15 s):** low angle, the saucer wobbles up off its legs, the legs fold in, yellow dust swirls, he jumps and cheers waving the wrench while the garage rattles in the background.



02 Moon fishing

Shot 1 (0–5 s): wide, the orange alien sits on the dripping cheese moon swinging his blue boots, the pink scarf streams in the space wind, stars twinkle, the little cloud creature sniffs the hook. **Shot 2 (5–10 s):** close-up, the cloud creature bites, the line snaps taut, the stick rod bends, the alien's fur bristles and his eyes pop wide. **Shot 3 (10–15 s):** tug-of-war, he yanks back, the cloud creature stretches like taffy and bursts into five tiny giggling cloud puffs that swim away, cheese drips fly off the moon and he tumbles backwards, boots kicking.



03 Skater monster

Shot 1 (0–5 s): tracking shot, the blue lumpy monster rolls toward the purple quarter-pipe, arms flailing, his lumpy body jiggles, pink shoelaces flap, wheels kick up dust. **Shot 2 (5–10 s):** low angle, he launches off the ramp, spins a full kickflip in the air, his teeth chatter, his huge yellow eyes wobble, drool trails behind him. **Shot 3 (10–15 s):** he slams the landing, the board flexes, he skids in a cloud of dust, throws both arms up and screams with joy, the pink cloud in the sky puffs.



04 Cactus gardener

Shot 1 (0–5 s): wide, the little pink alien in the straw hat pours an arcing stream of water from the blue can, the water splashes and sparkles, the giant cactus giggles and its flowers sway. **Shot 2 (5–10 s):** close-up, the cactus gulps the water and grows taller, its arms stretch, three new orange flowers pop open, the alien's ears flop up in surprise. **Shot 3 (10–15 s):** the cactus gently scoops the alien up into a hug, the straw hat flies off and spins, the puddle shimmers, heat haze ripples over the desert and the orange sun pulses.



05 Night ramen stand

Shot 1 (0-5 s): wide, the orange one-eyed chef lifts a huge tangle of noodles high with chopsticks, pink steam spirals up, broth drips, the lamp sways and flickers, the torn red awning flaps in the wind. **Shot 2 (5-10 s):** close-up, the lilac ghost slurps the noodles, its whole body ripples and drips, its cheeks glow pink with each slurp.

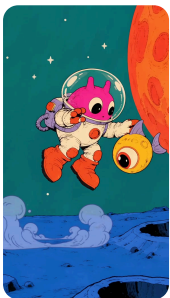
Shot 3 (10-15 s): the chef throws his head back laughing, apron flapping, he ladles more broth with a splash, the ghost melts happily onto the stool, the moon glows and the stars twinkle.



06 Desert convertible

Shot 1 (0-5 s): tracking shot alongside the pink convertible speeding down the desert highway, orange exhaust clouds roll out, the orange furball's fur and ears whip in the wind, the green driver's eye stalks wobble. **Shot 2 (5-10 s):** front view, the driver swerves wildly, his tongue flaps in the

wind, the furball's sunglasses slide down his nose. **Shot 3 (10-15 s):** the car hits a bump and flies through the air, dust and pebbles spray, it lands bouncing on its springs and both aliens cheer, road lines streak past, the sun shimmers.



07 Space fish

Shot 1 (0-5 s): wide, the one-eyed yellow fish floats in low gravity, its drips float upward as little bubbles, its fins flutter, the pink alien in the space suit reaches out slowly. **Shot 2 (5-10 s):** close-up through the helmet, the alien's eyes widen, the glass fogs and clears, its antennae bend, the fish

blinks and wiggles. **Shot 3 (10-15 s):** the alien leaps in a slow moon bounce toward the fish, blue dust plumes drift up, the fish darts playfully around the helmet, the huge orange planet slowly turns behind them.



08 Rooftop sax

Shot 1 (0-5 s): wide, the lanky purple alien plays the golden saxophone, pink smoke music ribbons pour from the bell, his body sways, his curly antennae bounce, his big pink shoes tap. **Shot 2 (5-10 s):** close-up, his cheeks puff, the sax keys click, slime drips from his elbows, his sleepy eyes roll with

the groove. **Shot 3 (10-15 s):** the camera pulls back, the pink smoke curls into swirling shapes across the sky, the clouds and the orange sun pulse to the rhythm, the city towers sway.



09 Rain umbrella

Shot 1 (0-5 s): wide, yellow raindrops fall, the grumpy pink umbrella creature drips and grumbles, the orange duck-billed alien smiles up at it, its purple raincoat sways. **Shot 2 (5-10 s):** close-up, the umbrella catches raindrops in its mouth and gulps them, its eyes roll, pink drips

wobble off its edges. **Shot 3 (10-15 s):** the alien jumps into the pink puddle, splashes fly everywhere, the umbrella shakes itself dry like a wet dog, ripples spread across the puddles, the city skyline shimmers in the rain.



10 Campfire story

Shot 1 (0-5 s): wide, the blue eye-stalk alien tells a spooky story with wild hand gestures, the campfire crackles, the flames curl high, sparks drift up.

Shot 2 (5-10 s): close-up, the little orange cyclops shivers and pulls the pink blanket tighter, its big eye darts left and right, its

horns tremble. **Shot 3 (10-15 s):** the flames swirl up into a giant fiery monster face, both aliens jump and scream, sparks burst, the blanket flies, the pink moon looms and the stars twinkle.

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