



Look after your teeth.

Jo Ratcliffe is, as you can see, a very beautiful lady. However, looking at her drawings, you could be forgiven for thinking the illustrator was a big ol' scary man. Her dark gothic artwork for drone metal bands (featuring smouldering, half-dressed *Sin City*-esque women), and the unisex name Jo, means it's an easy mistake to make. She smiles, hoping the misguided fan who had her Sunn O))) album cover tattooed across his back, won't mind she's a she. "I was so disappointed when I found out Aubrey Beardsley was a man!" she says. Berkshire-born, Jo spent her childhood reproducing Arthur Rackham fairytale illustrations. After persuading her conventional Catholic parents to let her go, she found St Martins, but for Jo she found it tough to make ends meet. Demoralised, she resorted to a pay-the-bills admin job at Hasbro toy company, responsible for childhood favourites Trollz and GI Joe. In a strange twist, it was this toy story that launched her career. Sitting at reception, she wasted time sketching Marvel comic heroes. Soon, her colleagues were giving her *Sindy* doll magazines to work on and her flatmate was hooking her up with the *Dazed & Confused* art director. Her clipped wings soon took flight. From Hockney-style pencil precision to art nouveau ink, Jo developed a carousel of styles, creeping onto the pages of *Vogue* and *Lula*, and winning ad campaigns for Sony. Most recently, her work was plumped out in 3-D at her b store exhibition. As for future projects, she talks excitedly about a hush-hush celebrity portrait commission, and finally being given free rein by clients. Quite right for such a big draw. *Ruby Baker*. Photography Dean Burns. www.jocandraw.com