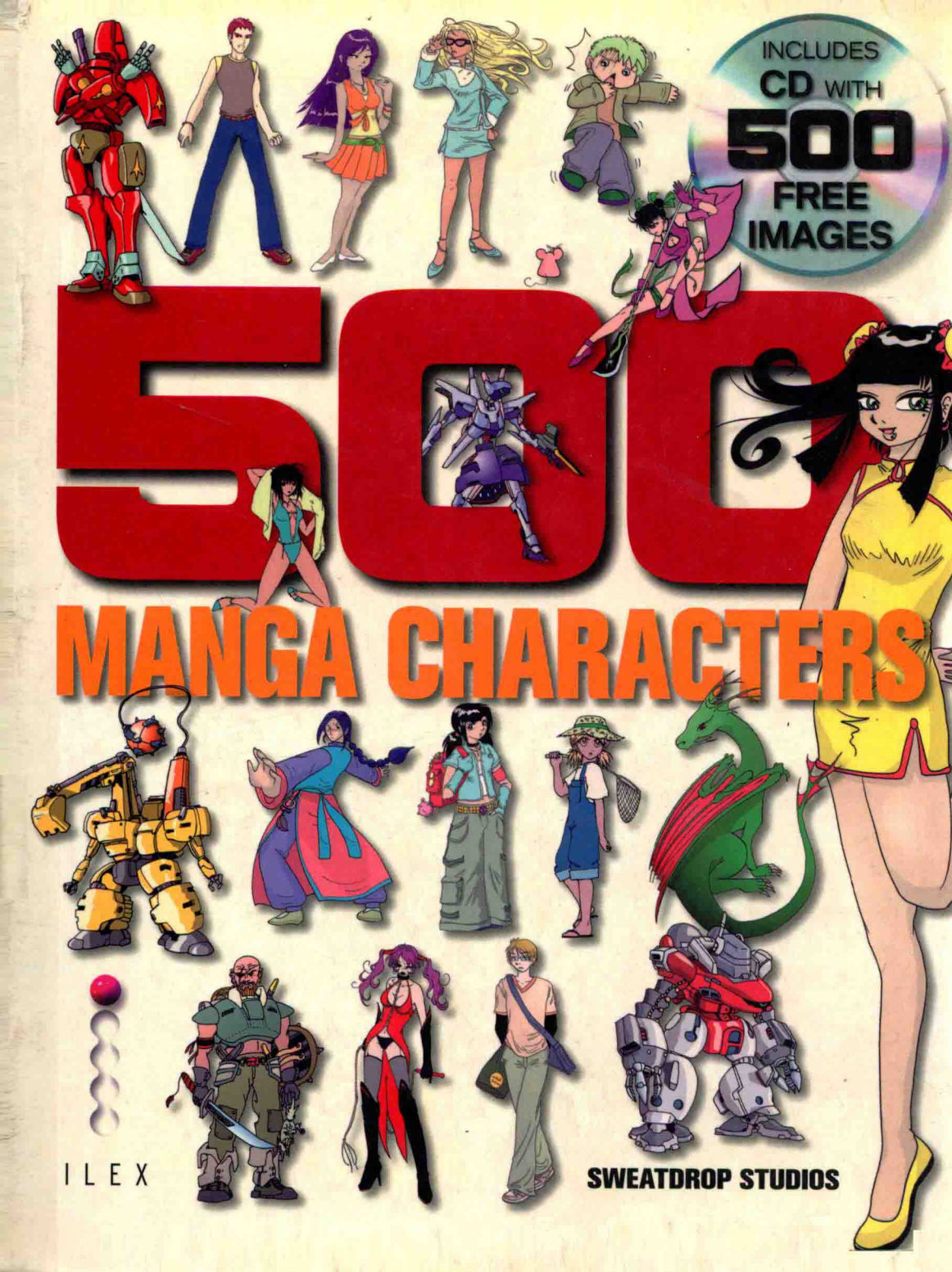
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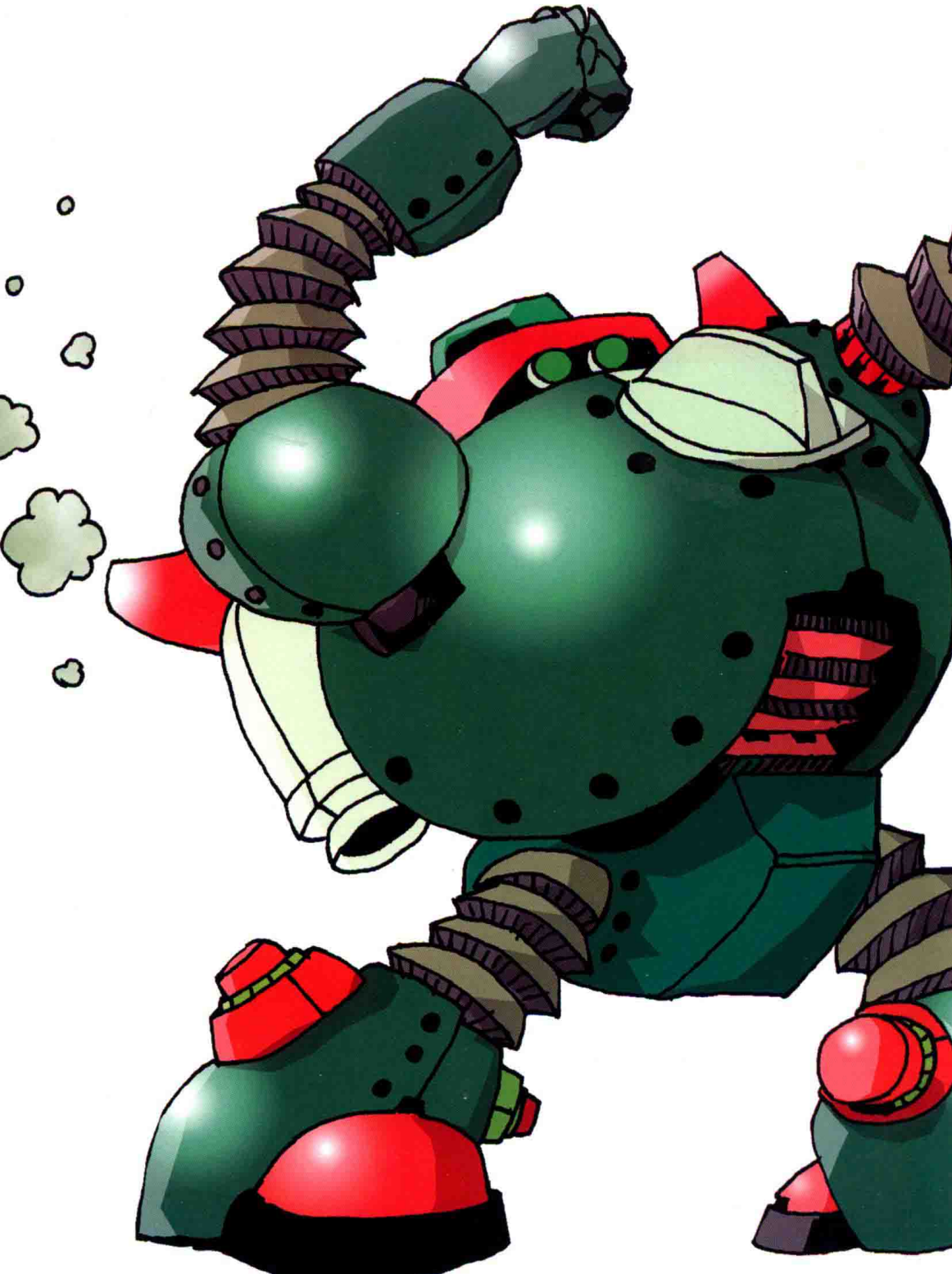

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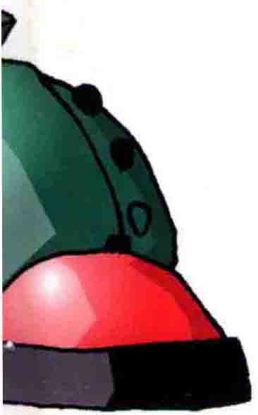

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introduction

"Manga" is simply the Japanese word for "comics," referring solely to printed comics. The word, however, has become internationally recognized to refer to the art style, subject matter, and method of presentation, and manga-style artists can be found all over the world.

Manga in its present form has existed for over 50 years, but the origins of Japanese sequential art date back to ukiyo-e painting from the 19th century. Hokusai, probably the most famous ukiyo-e artist, is generally credited with coining the term "manga," literally meaning "irresponsible pictures." The development of this style into mass-produced sequential art in the early 20th century, combined with influences from European and American strip-panel comics, evolved the form into what is now commonly accepted as manga. Anime, referring to Japanese animated films and cartoons, is also a big influence on manga artists. Both manga and anime share many visual traits, so it's natural for the two to be associated.

The flexibility within manga is part of its appeal, and there's manga-style artwork to suit all tastes. From the gritty and realistic to the cute and exaggerated, and every step in between, there's always something interesting about every new picture drawn in this uniquely versatile artform. This book offers you a massive selection of 500 manga characters illustrated in a wide range of styles, themes, and poses.

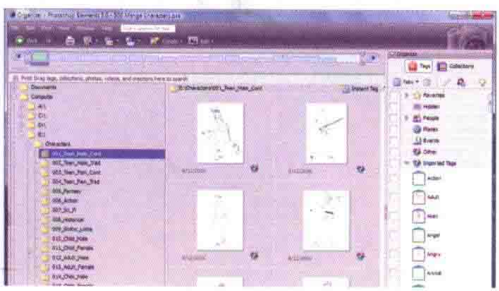
using the cd

Getting Started

All of the images on the CD are stored as .psd documents that can be opened in all leading image-editing programs. They are named according to their category and position in the book. For example, 039_teen_male_trad_07.psd is image number 39 in the book, and is the seventh image in the *Teenage male traditional Asian* category. Each of the categories has its own folder on the CD, so you can easily find the files that you are looking for.

Searching Metadata

Another easy way to find the files that you are looking for is to search through the metadata tags. Metadata sounds complicated, but it just means data that describes other data–in this case, keywords that describe the content of the images. This means that you can search through all of the images on the CD to find, say, all of the characters wearing kimonos. Most image-editing and cataloging software will allow you to browse through your images and view the metadata. In Adobe Photoshop an external application called Bridge is used to browse images. Adobe Photoshop Elements on the Macintosh also uses Bridge, but Photoshop Elements on the PC uses the Organizer workspace. Corel Paint Shop Pro uses the Organizer window. They all work in broadly the same way, and we will use Photoshop Elements as an example.



1 Open Photoshop Elements and go to the Organizer workspace. When it has opened, go to *File* > *Get Photos* > *From Files and Folders*, and navigate to the CD that contains the images. Choose to *Import all Tags* when prompted to make sure that all of the metadata keywords are loaded into Elements.

2 As you navigate the folders on the CD, you will see that thumbnails of the images appear in the main window. If you double-click on one of these images it will expand to fill the window and give a list of all the attached keywords describing the image below it.

3 To search for all images that are tagged with a certain keyword, simply click the icon next to the keyword tag on the right, and the photo list will be restricted to only those images that include the selected keyword. There is a text file containing all of the search keywords on the CD. You can also search by artist name from the same list to find all of the images drawn by a particular artist.

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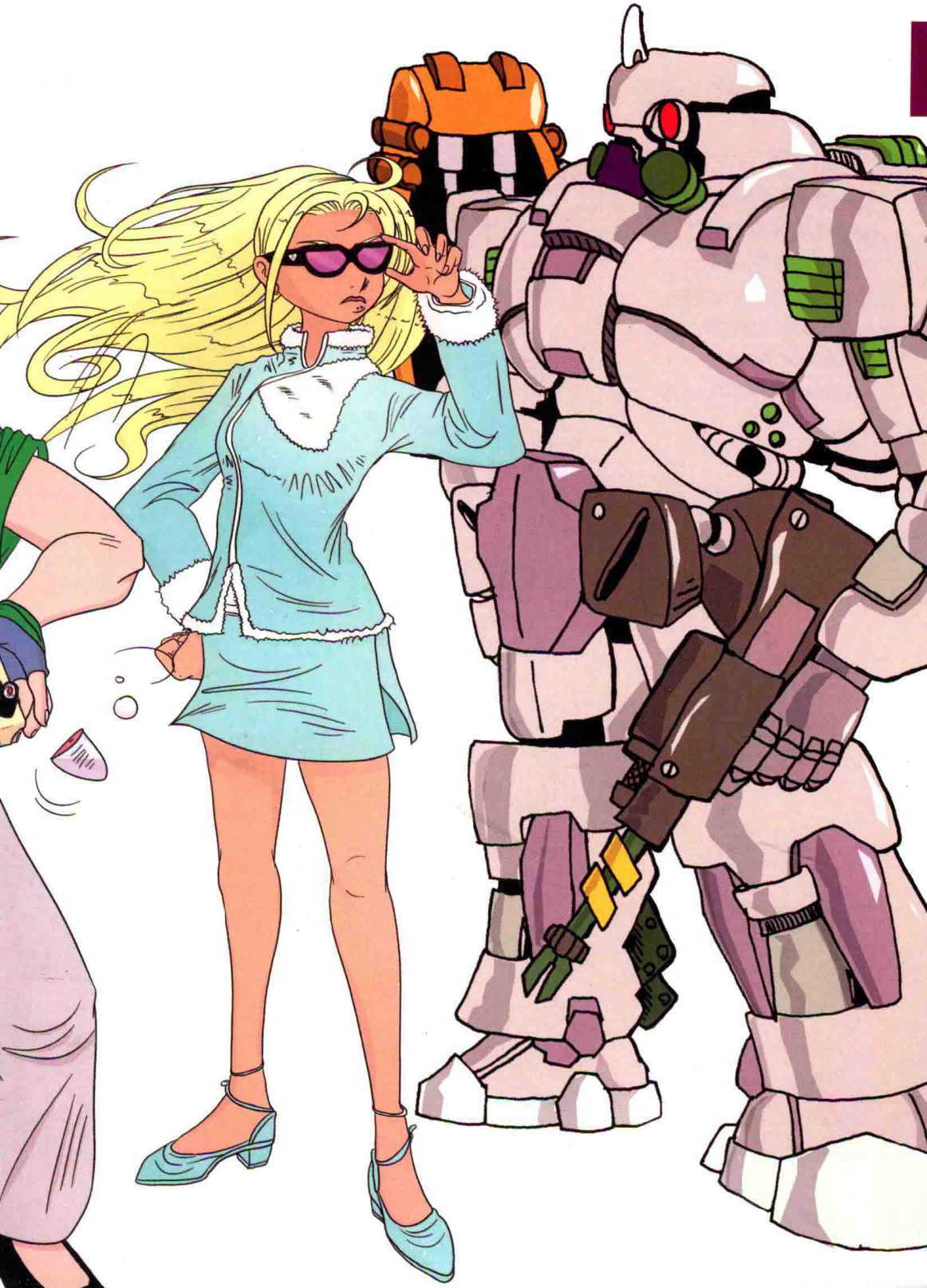
image gallery



001

teenage female
contemporary

search criteria

food. bag. smart.
leg warmers. angry.
wink. uniform.
walking. standing.

002

teenage female contemporary

search criteria

leg warmers. bag. casual. dance. happy. waving. standing.

003

teenage female
contemporary
search criteria
angry. standing.
casual. watch. bow.

004

teenage female contemporary

search criteria

bag. skull. casual. sad. standing.

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