How to Make a Professional-Looking Digital Illustration Using Gimp
(The Cheat-Sheet)
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How to Make an Illustration from a Photograph using GIMP

1.) Find a photo that you took yourself or that is royalty-free (preferably).
2.) Open Gimp.
   Choose in the menu: File-> Open -> (Choose your photo)
3.) Add a new layer. (It's the left button at the bottom of the layers menu.)
   -Give it a white background.
   -Change layer order so your new layer is under your photo layer.
4.) Now click on your photo layer.
   -Drop the transparency a little. (So you can more easily trace over your photo and see what you are doing)
   -Lock the photo layer down. (Click the button that looks like a paintbrush to lock it.)
5.) Add a new layer. Make this one transparent.
   -Move this layer so it's now the top layer. This will be our black and white line drawing layer.
6.) With your B&W line drawing layer selected, click the brush tool in the tool palette. Adjust size and color. Trace over your photo.
7.) If you want, change the fill color of your bottom layer. Turn the visibility off on your photo layer to see the emerging illustration.
8.) Add a new layer and put it under the B&W line drawing and over the photo. Use your brush to color your illustration in.
9.) Don't forget to save! Export as a .png or jpg file so you can use the image online and in your blog post.