

SCI-FI & FANTASY OIL PAINTING TECHNIQUES BY PATRICK J. JONES



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Review

"The master artist makes it clear that getting the groundwork right is the key to great art..."

ImagineFX Magazine

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Pat Wilshire, IlluXCon Co-Founder and author

"A unique, behind-the-scenes look at the creative process and artistic philosophy of one of the masters of Sci-Fi and Fantasy art, Patrick J. Jones. Influenced by Boris Vallejo and Frank Frazetta, he shares the secrets of painting...from initial pencil sketches to finished art--astonishingly finished, amazing pieces, I would add. Featuring detailed, step-by-step tutorials packed with information, advice, anecdotes, and professional tips and tricks, this is a must for any serious student of the genre--or any fantasy art fan. His work is AMAZING!"

Bud Plant: Bud's Art Books

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A unique, behind-the-scenes look at the creative process and artistic philosophy of one of the masters of sci-fi and fantasy art, Patrick J. Jones. Influenced by Boris Vallejo and Frank Frazetta, he shares the secrets of painting Conan, mermaids, and other-worldly creatures, from initial pencil sketches to finished art. Featuring detailed, step-by-step tutorials packed with information, advice, anecdotes, and professional tips and tricks. A must for any serious student of the genre or any fantasy art fan.

- Sales Rank: #410118 in Books
- Published on: 2014-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.75" h x 8.75" w x .50" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 192 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

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The Best Book On How To Paint Like Frank Frazetta (Approximately)

By Walt Morton

For the last 50 years, the most influential oil painter in the world of fantasy art has been Frank Frazetta (1928 - 2010.) In the wake of Frazetta's iconic Conan paintings for Ace paperbacks starting in 1967, a cadre of high-quality fantasy illustrators came to light: Boris Vallejo, Jeffrey Jones, Manuel Sanjulian, etc. This paved the way for more fantasy artists in the 80's and 90's like Michael Whelan, Rick Berry, Phil Hale, Donato Giancola, James Gurney, and Brom. Now, with the explosive popularity of fantasy & sci-fi movies, as well as conventions like Comicon, Spectrum, and Illuxcon, this kind of art is popular and taken seriously as never before.

Nobody can teach you to do an oil painting that looks exactly like a Frank Frazetta. Frank had a rare combination of a bold imagination, deep technical ability, and the wildest color sense since Gauguin.

That said, Patrick Jones has written an incredibly informative and fine book on oil painting techniques for fantasy art. This book is the single best guide to date for doing a painting in the "school" of Frazetta. And let's be clear, I don't mean to suggest that Jones is a mere copyist or clone of Frazetta. He is not. He clearly has his own style and has established a look that visually marks his art as a Patrick J. Jones painting.

So what does the book really offer?

Jones, like many young artists, saw the work of Frazetta and thought "WOW! - I'd like to do some art like that." But most artists do not actually engage in the long hard work of investigating and developing an oil painting process that will actually yield results that feel "Frazetta-like." Jones has done this. And the book is for the most part a discussion of the many ideas and steps he incorporated along years of development as an artist to create a process that yields quality results. Jones shares his step-by-step methods on several paintings in considerable detail.

Admittedly, Jones method is not identical to the way Frazetta worked. Because Frazetta often waited until the last minute on commercial work, and would paint a complete book cover in 24 hours or less, painting wet-in-wet. Jones is more methodical, and his method more forgiving, and the ideas suggested can help any painter working this field get better results.

Frazetta, for the record, was relatively secretive in offering details about how he painted and would never have given anybody the kind of lengthy, in-depth and open instruction that Jones' book provides.

And while I have emphasized the Frazetta connection, it should be noted that this is a fine book for any painter interested in doing realist figurative oil paintings, regardless of subject matter or content. A painter could use the information in this book to paint elves or WWII soldiers or surfers or any kind of humanoid figure. Jones includes (in brief) references to many of the best oil painters of the last hundred years, especially where he sees some aspect of their technique useful to developing a good painting. He suggests Andrew Loomis and George Bridgeman for figure drawing and quotes Norman Rockwell on the idea that "people will forgive anything but the face and hands."

While primarily a manual of technical processes for oil painting, one innovation that Jones touches on that none of the old masters of fantasy illustration used is "digital" and the use of tools like Corel Painter. Jones is effective in showing how artists more familiar with Photoshop, Painter, etc. could think about using skills developed digitally to move onto a real physical canvas.

All in all, an excellent and well done book for a specific purpose and audience. For any artist seeking to "paint like Frazetta" this book would be at the top of the reference list. There are some other fantasy artists who have done fine books in this field (James Gurney has two excellent ones) and there are other good books out there on pure oil painting technique (see Joseph Sheppard's "How To paint Like The Old Masters" or Solomon J. Solomon's "The Practice of Oil Painting and Drawing.") But if you had to pick one book by an artist who has successfully found a way to paint with a real Frazetta feel, Patrick Jones book is the single best choice.

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

Incredibly informative and a terrific resource

By Parka

[[VIDEOID:ead674f499bd6176ebfa031df1e56438]]This book is the next best thing if you can't be inside Patrick J. Jones' studio to watch him paint.

Collected within are 13 step-by-step tutorials that look at Patrick's painting process from start to finish. The book focuses on fantasy characters. Anyway, the techniques taught are applicable as long as you're drawing figurative forms.

The importance of foundation knowledge of figure drawing is laid out in the first few chapters. After which the detailed tutorials follow.

Each tutorial features one amazing painting where there are several photos of the painting in progress, and each step is accompanied by the materials and techniques he used. Patrick would zoom in on specific areas of the paintings and talk about them in greater detail regarding the painting process and the ideas behind.

The painting he used as examples are from commissioned jobs as well as his personal works. Some of them are huge. It would have been great to see them at the actual size. The reproduction shown in the book is quite detailed but I felt that overall, many are slightly darker, but perhaps they are really like that in real life just that I haven't the opportunity to see them.

The last section of the book has a few pages of art gallery, tips on photographing models and artwork. He also shows us his palette and let us peek at his studio.

This book's incredibly informative and a terrific resource for any sci-fi & fantasy oil painter to learn from. There are lots of useful tips shared, not just from himself but from artists he has learned from. It's also very inspiring to read about his career, inspiration and how he got into painting. Considering the affordability of the book, this is definitely value for money.

(See more pictures of the book on my blog. Just visit my Amazon profile for the link.)

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

Great book

By Mike

Just to start off, I don't have a career in the art world, but I am always working on some kind of drawing or painting away from work as a hobby. I've taken many art classes in college and would say my skill level for being a hobbyist is pretty decent, but I'm always looking for more. As of recent times, I've been dabbling in digital art and also wanted to paint in oils. I've always had cheap student oils, but for me they did not do the job. I finally invested in some good oil paints and several books and have been practicing portraits. I also love fantasy, sci fi and horror. I've always loved looking at works done by Brom and Boris Vallejo. I'd love to learn the painting process artists like these use. So the other day I stumbled onto this book, Sci-Fi and fantasy Oil Painting Techniques by Patrick J Jones, Foreward by Boris Vallejo. This book just got released and there were no reviews on it, but I purchased it anyway. I'm so glad I did. The book is 192 pages with many examples on each page describing each step of the painting; from capturing images of models, rough / thumbnail sketches, under painting, and each layer after that, until the finished work. He goes into great detail on his techniques and mediums used. I'm very happy with this book, I would recommend it to beginners and advanced artists. If you are serious about oil painting, get this book!

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