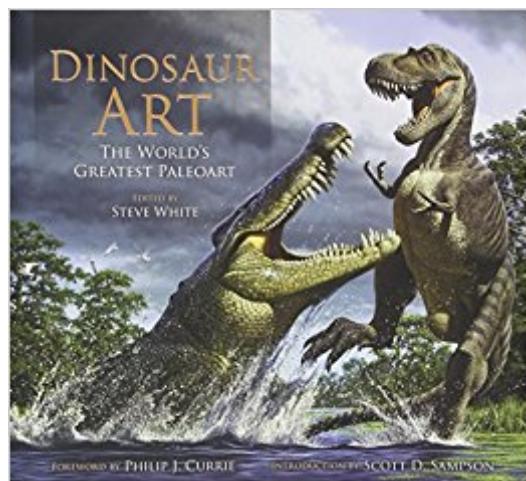


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Dinosaur Art: The World's Greatest Paleoart



Synopsis

A paleoartist is an illustrator who specialises in the science and art of reconstructing ancient animals and their world. In Dinosaur Art, ten of the top contemporary paleoartists reveal a selection of their work and exclusively discuss their working methods and distinct styles. Filled with breathtaking artwork - some never before seen - and cutting edge paleontology, this is a treasure trove for dinosaur enthusiasts, art lovers and budding illustrators.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'An absolute pleasure to pore over, and almost every page is a window into a vanished world....the lavish art and interviews will undoubtedly inspire the next generation of great paleoartists....'"
"Smithsonian 'Alas, there were no photographers around to record the gruesome events. Fortunately for us, there are some highly skilled paleoartists who can provide a realistic look at dinosaur predation ...'"
"Dinosaur Art and the artists whose work is displayed within its pages are a feast for the mind, the senses, and the imagination. It strives to illustrate not only the dinosaurs, but the art and science that bring them alive for us all.'"
"Red Orbit' 'Magnificent, awe-inspiring, mind-blowing' words truly can't describe the level of artistic mastery showcased in this collection. Bottom line: If you're a dinosaur aficionado, regardless of age, you need to experience Dinosaur Art. This is a book to be savored, shared, and cherished.'
"B&N Book Blog' In his new "Dinosaur Art" book, paleo-artist and comics editor Steve White reveals the beauty, brawn and mystique of these giant beasts that walked the Earth millions of years ago.'
"Live Science

(www.livescience.com)'Titan Books, publishers of this coffee-table book that is sure to be a phenomenon amongst paleontology enthusiasts, outdid themselves splendidly and an extra round of applause should definitely go their way! "Perfect for anyone who wants to learn more about Earth's history, or just wants to escape to a world of giant monsters who happened to be real." 9

Steve White has drawn dinosaurs since he was four, for fun and professionally. Mauricio Anton has created artwork for museum exhibits worldwide. John Conway has worked on projects for the Discovery Channel and the American Museum of Natural History. Julius Csotonyi has produced work for 25 publishers and museum exhibits, including National Geographic. Douglas Henderson was credited as a 'Dinosaur Specialist' on Jurassic Park, and his artwork can actually be seen hanging in John Hammond's room in Jurassic Park 2: The Lost World! Todd Marshall is best known for his collaborations with renowned paleontologist, Paul Serono. Raul Martin's stunning oil and digital paintings have also appeared as murals in museums across the planet. Robert Nicholls' illustrations, murals and 3D models are exhibited all around the world. Gregory S. Paul has renamed several dinosaurs, and has been active in such fields as dinosaur physiology and thermodynamics. He was heavily involved in advising the filmmakers of Jurassic Park and several TV series. Luis Rey illustrated *Dinosaurs: The Most Complete, Up-to-Date Encyclopedia for Dinosaur Lovers of All Ages*. John Sibbick has been an independent illustrator for 30 years.

I was on the lookout for a new dinosaur book to replace my old one, now quite out of date, and so discovered this gem. It provides relatively little in terms of science fact - there are other good books for that - but is great in covering the various styles by several great paleo-artists. The pictures are all excellent quality, providing samples by each of the ten artists represented, including now and then preliminary sketches. The accompanying text is devoted primarily to the individual artists, some explaining how the picture was made (methods and concepts behind the compositions), and often giving a bit of biographical information. The pictures cover mostly the dinosaur era (mesozoic), including underwater scenes and pterosaurs, but there are also a few post-dino era scenes (sabretooth etc in the cenozoic). Overall this is very beautiful picture book - and be on the lookout ... a second volume is out later this year (Oct 2017)! The 10 artists represented in this volume in order are: Julius Csotonyi, Gregory S. Paul, Mauricio Anton, Douglas Henderson, Todd Marshall, John Sibbick, Luis Rey, John Conway, Robert Nicholls and Raul Martin.

Charles Knight died while I was still a young boy, leaving behind a series of paintings of dinosaurs and other extinct creatures which sustained me through my childhood (even my "dino-toys" aped Knight's reconstructions), but then something terrible happened. For almost 30 years, dinosaur art stagnated, with endless recyclings and reworkings of Knight's depictions, getting ever cruder and falling ever further behind the evolving dinosaur science. Then, in 1986, Dr. Robert Bakker, in "The Dinosaur Heresies", brought modern dinosaur science into the mainstream and, with it, he inspired a whole new generation of "paleo-artists" to pick up the cudgel (or brush or pen or computer stylus) and to start illustrating these new ideas, new interpretations, and the multitudinous new finds coming out of such previously ignored places as South America and China. This book reflects a compendium of select works from 9 of the "second generation" of the artists thus inspired, plus the work of Gregory Paul, who, if he is the least "artistic" of the group, is probably one of the most influential of this new wave of "dino-drawers". Almost all of the artists showcased acknowledge Bakker as their inspiration and Paul as their mentor, tho' their work differs extraordinarily in both technique and result, from the utterly "photo-realistic" (such as the works of Julius Csotonyi and Luis Rey) to the almost Japanese brushwork illustrations of artists such as John Conway. None of the artist's works are a disappointment and all are utterly compelling and intriguing, with an excellent (if necessarily limited) selection of works from each of the featured artists, all beautifully presented on high quality paper stock and in full color. Be aware, however, that this is NOT a book about ancient animals. It is a book about art, with the text, in each case, consisting of an interview with the featured artist, which only tangentially touches on the subject matter. As an art book, however, it succeeds brilliantly. Seeing the utter revolution in the depiction of extinct animals which has followed in the wake of Bakker's book (helped, in many cases, by evolving technology, including, particularly, the various means of creating "digital art"), one almost feels like Cosimo de Medici, watching as the new thinking and new techniques of the Renaissance displace the tired conventions of Medieval artwork and its increasingly degraded reiteration of Byzantine artistic conventions. If I have any bone to pick with the book (aside from the short shrift given to the animals depicted and the lack of much discussion of them) it is the exclusion of what really was the "first wave" of this paleo-art revival in favor of the "enfant terribles" who followed them. Where are the Czerkas brothers? Where is John Gurche (whose work provided the cover art for Bakker's book)? Where are David Peters and Mark Hallet? Leaving those artists out (esp. Gurche and the Czerkas) is like writing a book about the Renaissance without discussing Fra Angelico and Giotto or the Dutch oil painters, such as Van Eyck. All the artists featured deserved to be featured, but one wishes that, perhaps, a few more

might have been tapped for inclusion. It is a relatively piddling gripe, however, and the book is a delight whether the interest is art or dinosaurs, the type of book one can visit and revisit over and over again without satiation. Well worth the price.

I don't have any complaints about this, its exactly what it is supposed to be which is a book of paleo art. However, I do have 'regrets', lol. First, its a disappointingly short book for the money spent. Granted of course good art doesn't come cheap. Secondly.... it wasn't really what I was looking for myself, which was a book about dinosaurs with some great illustrations. This book stages the art and talks about the artists, not the dinos so much. It is however a good way for you to discover which paleo illustrators whose style you like. Just for the heck of it, I rated the top artists in the book according to my own taste. Granted of course when it comes to art, there is no "better" or "worse", its entirely up to what appeals to you personally. 5 being best.- Julius Csotonyi (5, probably my #1 pick)- Mauricio Anton (4)- Doug Henderson (4, great nature scenes)- Todd Marshall (5, but a bit surreal. The most 'wow' pics were these)- John Sibbick (4)- Luis Rey (5, great use of colors)- Raul Martin (4, nice detail but a little two dimensional) If you're going to collect dino books, this is probably a must have. Also its a dinosaur book geared specifically to adults, which seems a rarity although I have no idea why. I suppose it goes with the general assumption by mass marketing that as people 'grow up' they lose interest in just about everything except perhaps things like tools, staying young and complaining about politics, lol.

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