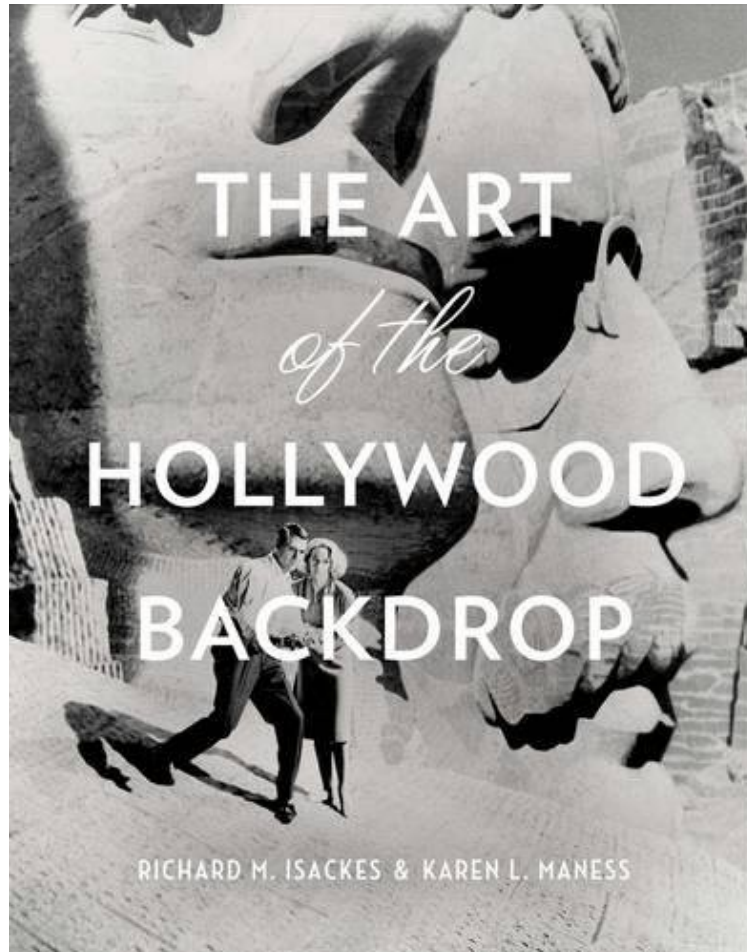


(Download) The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop

The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop

Richard M. Isackes, Karen L. Maness
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Richard M. Isackes, Karen L. Maness : The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful reproductions of backdrops used in Hollywood films and background on the artists that painted them. By Wayne Klein Terrific coffee table book that covers the art of the Hollywood backdrop, this book gives us large photos of the backdrops, blown up frames from the films that some of the best are featured in (from the 50's through today). The book also provides info on some of the artists that created these backdrops. Hollywood back in the day would often use backdrops for close up shots, cut always or to create in the studio a duplicate of the environment that we might see on location. Much of that type of work has been replaced with blue screen and CGI over the years so much of this art has been pushed to the side. These backdrops at their best were wonderfully detailed paintings. This book does an excellent job of documenting the best from the late 20th century and the early 21st. The seamless way that these paintings and their foreground stage dressings could create a seamless illusion often giving a fantasy sheen to many of these films. The book is printed on heavy, glossy paper and the book

is well bound using the type of binding of typically expensive set books (which is entirely appropriate). Highly recommended 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well Executed, Beautifully Written and Visually Delicious. By Rebekah Lazaridis I was astounded when this book arrived in the mail. It's absolutely beautiful. The book has a sturdy canvas textured shell to protect it with an image of The Sound of Music on one side and The Wizard of Oz on the other. Immediately your eye goes right to the painted backdrop in those two photos. Solid design. The layout of the book is wonderfully executed with artist interviews, really strong writing that isn't dry but almost personal, unlike most of these big books you'd collect. The main focus is the large stunning photography of behind the scenes shots from old Hollywood. The star of each photo is the backdrops themselves and that's where your eye goes first, not to the famous actor standing in front. That's my favorite part about this book- scenic painters rarely get recognition (nor do they ask for it) but I'm so excited that Richard Isackes and Karen Maness took the time to create a massive visual "standing ovation" to this profession. Buy this book. Buy it now. You'll not regret it. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great book for movie and art lovers. By Jlp Awesome book with great photos of many old movies I've seen. I had no idea these backdrops were painted.

The definitive behind-the-scenes history of one of Hollywood's most closely guarded cinematic secrets finally revealed: painted backdrops and the scenic artists who brought them to the big screen. In almost every feature film of Hollywood's golden age, from The Wizard of Oz to North by Northwest to Cleopatra to The Sound of Music, painted backings have convinced moviegoers that what they are seeing is absolutely real. These backings are at once intended to transport the audience and yet remain unseen for what they really are. The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop reveals the hidden world and creators of these masterpieces, long-guarded as a special effects secret by the major studios such as MGM, Warner Brothers, Universal, Columbia, 20th Century Fox, and Paramount. Despite the continued use of hand-painted backings in today's films, including the big-budget Interstellar and Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events among many others, digital technology is beginning to supplant the art form. In an effort to preserve the irreplaceable knowledge of scenic masters, Karen Maness and Richard Isackes, in collaboration with the Art Directors Guild, have compiled a definitive history of the craft, complete with interviews of the surviving artists. This is a rich undiscovered history: a history replete with competing art departments, dynastic scenic families, and origins stretching back to the films of M. J. O'Shea, Edison, Sennett, Chaplin, and Fairbanks. Filled cover to cover with over 300 images, The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop is beautifully packaged as a hardcover book with slipcase.

The best book written about one of our crafts . . . ever. Perspective: The Journal of the Art Directors Guild To turn the pages of this book is to feel like you've entered a legendary treasure house filled with magnificent images, paintings that fooled the eye. Los Angeles Times A welcome reminder of how the movies managed to summon their most magical worlds from pigments and brushstrokes. New York magazine In The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop . . . the unsung artists who created some of cinema's most enduring images take a long-overdue bow. The Wall Street Journal Pays homage to the trompe l'oeil that created some of film's most iconic settings. The Hollywood Reporter "Reveals a facet of moviemaking that even savvy film buffs may not know about . . . You will be amazed, as I was, at the number of familiar scenes from films as varied as The Wizard of Oz, North by Northwest, and Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events that make use of these canvases . . . This is truly an eye-opening book and a valuable contribution to our understanding of how movies are created." Leonard Maltin "The fascinating scenic work documented so gorgeously here is vivid testimony to the critical role of the artist in the creation of expressive, immersive narrative environments throughout the history of cinema. We can begin to appreciate perhaps what we are now losing: the hand of the artist illuminated by the cinematographers' light and captured on camera at the moment of performance." Rick Heinrichs, Academy Award-winning production designer of Sleepy Hollow What a pleasure it is to see this book being published. Now, the filmgoer can see for themselves one of the great and beautiful mysteries of film creation. This book shows it all. Dean Tavoularis, Academy Award-winning production designer of The Godfather: Part II To see all my heroes in one book and look inside this enchanting world is extraordinary. A truly inspiring book. Jess Gonchor, Production Designer of True Grit, No Country for Old Men, and Hail, Caesar! "What an astonishing achievement this spectacular volume is! It's amazing that we, who love the movies, are being presented with. Massive congratulations are due to all who contributed to making this 'dream-work' such a totally absorbing reality. Tony Walton, Academy Award-winning production designer of All That Jazz About the Author Karen Maness is the principal instructor of scenic art and figurative painting for the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Texas at Austin, and Scenic Art Supervisor at Texas Performing Arts. Maness studied studio art and set design at Whittier College in Los Angeles, California and continued her studies at Cobalt Studios in White Lake, New York, and The Florence Academy of Art in Italy. Her career as a scenic artist and practicing studio artist spans more than twenty-five years, with works held in private collections worldwide. Richard Isackes is currently a professor of theater at the University of Texas at Austin. Isackes has designed extensively in both regional theater and opera and has twice been the recipient of the Boston Circle Critics award for best scene design. Formerly a member of the faculties of

Bucknell University, Boston University and the University of Illinois, he currently holds the Joanne Sharpe Crosby Chair in Design and Technology at the University of Texas where he served as Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance from 1998 to 2006.