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Hardware: The Definitive SF Works Of Chris Foss



Synopsis

Foss's groundbreaking and distinctive science fiction art revolutionized paperback covers in the 1970s and 80s. Dramatically raising the bar for realism and invention, his trademark battle-weary spacecraft, dramatic alien landscapes and crumbling brutalist architecture irrevocably changed the aesthetic of science fiction art and cinema. Featuring work for books by Isaac Asimov, E. E. Doc Smith, Arthur C. Clarke, A. E. Van Vogt and Philip K. Dick, and film design for Ridley Scott and Stanley Kubrick, this volume brings together many rare and classic images that have never been seen or reprinted before. The first comprehensive retrospective of Chris Foss's SF career. Chris Foss's name has become pre-eminent among sf artists... He is in love with the monstrous, with angular momentum, with inertia-free projectiles and irresistible objects. Brian Aldiss [Foss] creations are real machines, not just an artist's dreams. They combine the two elements so essential to science fiction: realism and a sense of wonder... A medieval goldsmith of future eons. Alejandro Jodorowsky

Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Titan Books (September 6, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1848566980

ISBN-13: 978-1848566989

Product Dimensions: 9.7 x 1 x 12.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (36 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I managed to get this book from UK as it was released earlier there. This book is an amazing value for money. It's a rather large art book and it's filled with all these wonderful art from Chris Foss, mainly from the 70s and 80s. Each page typically has around 1 to 4 illustrations and there are a total of 240 pages. That's a lot of work! Chris Foss is an incredible sci-fi artist. There's a sense of realism that comes not just from how his works are painted, but also from the designs. For the ones that are printed full page, you can really check out the details that are put in. All are fully coloured and there

are some line sketches as well. There are lots of variety of spacecrafts featured, space stations, alien landscapes and cities, a few robots, some ships and planes. Chris Foss certainly made space more colourful with his colourful spacecrafts. Many of these work have appeared on sci-fi novels, and have also inspired sci-fi film designs. It will take a while to go through this wonderful collection. Highly recommended if you're into sci-fi art. You can also check out more work at Chris Foss' website. (There are more pictures of the book on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.)

If you're a fan of sf art, or even glanced at the sf section of a bookstore during the 1970s or 1980s then you know Chris Foss. This collection includes virtually all (if not all) of his published sf works. Many of these have been published in previous Foss collections (21st Century Foss and Diary of a Spaceperson), but I think this includes all of those and then some. This book is virtually all artwork, very well reproduced in color, mostly one to four paintings per page, which for the most part is large enough. There doesn't seem to be much organization or structure in presenting the paintings for the most part, other than the groupings of Dune concept work, military/thriller book covers mostly in one place, but if there is an order to the sf paintings it eludes me. There's basic information on each painting (title/book/publisher/date of the book cover it appeared on), an introduction by Rian Hughes, bio profile by daughter Imogene Foss, and brief appreciations/recollections by Moebius and Alejandro Jodorowsky who worked with Foss on an abortive 1970s film version of Dune. There are well over 120 sketches from Dune concept work and other sf efforts, as well as a few samples of Foss's earlier and non-sf works. I would have liked to see a few more sketches from his Diary of a Spaceperson work, or unpublished personal or other conceptual works. Overall, however, this book lives up to its title as the definitive collection of Foss's work -- it has essentially all of his major commercial works, and good samplings of his other art. Finally, this book is a bargain at this price. Well worth purchasing by anyone who enjoys science fiction and space art, or commercial illustration.

I saw several of Foss's paintings in a book called "Flights of Icarus" (FOI) many years ago, back in the 1980s. They were incredible. Since FOI featured a number of artists other than Foss, I was looking forward to this volume full of just his paintings. It is full of hundreds of his works from over the years, but it doesn't quite deliver. While in FOI the reproductions were full page, big, bright and beautiful, the paintings within this volume are small and cramped. He has such a large body of work that they crammed two or more paintings to a page and it's impossible to pick up any significant detail. If another volume came out with just one painting to a page in a larger format, I'd be

interested. If you want to see a large number of Foss's works, this volume has it. If you want to behold the true grandeur of his works, skip this one and try to pick up an old copy of FOI to see how it should have been done.

Amongst the 580 pieces displayed, 342 are sized ½ of a page or smaller. It's a shame really, because at least a half of those are 4 or 5 star pieces worthy of a full page. In order for the rating not to be biased I opted not to include those 342 images in the rating. SPECIFICS: Page Count:

240
Number of images: 580
Small images: 342
Half page images: 162
Full page images: 64
2-page spreads: 12
BW images: 3
TEXT: Introduction: 8 pages
Foreword by Moebius - 1 page
Foreword by Alejandro Jodorowsky - 1 page
Title and year for each piece
ART: 48 images: 5 stars
16 images: 4 stars
74 images: 3 stars
0 images: 2 stars
0 images: 1 star
Overall: 3,5 Stars

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The Road to Serfdom: Text and Documents--The Definitive Edition (The Collected Works of F. A. Hayek, Volume 2)
Rubber Band Engineer: Build Slingshot Powered Rockets, Rubber Band Rifles, Unconventional Catapults, and More Guerrilla Gadgets from Household Hardware
Fundamental Principles of Optical Lithography: The Science of Microfabrication by Mack. Chris (2007) Paperback
Mel Bay presents Chris Thile-Stealing Second CD
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