

BOOK REVIEW:

***Step By Step Cheat Books
Volume 1, Volume 2 – Horror,
and Volume 3 – Animals***

Published by Wolfe Brothers Face Art & FX, LLC. Volume 1 in June 2006; Volume 2 in February 2007 and Volume 3 in May 2007. Each contains 75 full colour photographs plus cover photos, 32 pages (including covers), coil bound on stiff cardstock, book size is 6” by 8”.



A list of designs included in each book is printed on the back covers, and on Volume 1 and 3 photographs Nick and Brian Wolfe are included there too. Other than these photographs of the Wolfe Brothers no artist credit is indicated for the designs or artwork.

I find the pages of these books very hard to turn due to the stiffness of the paper stock and the glossy finish, but presume that this will make them more durable over time. I have taken the books to workshops and now know that I can wipe off fingerprints and smeared face paint from the pages with no lasting marks. This will be good for the artists that like to refer to books while painting!

Each book contains 15 face painting designs shown in five step-by-step photographs. There is no accompanying text or photos of the actual application processes. I have to say that because of the lack of text or any visual indication of the method of application used for the designs that I would rate these books for intermediate painters. In order to follow along with the step-by-step photographs a face painter will need to have an understanding of face paint application techniques. In some of the designs I had to flip a coin to decide if a sponge or brush was used!

Some of the designs also have been done with techniques that could use an explanation rather than leaving it up to us to decide how to create the effect achieved in the photographs. Many of the designs are quite complicated and I would call them advanced level painting. While the photographs do show the order of application and placement they don't show HOW the face paint was applied.

In my opinion, while the several designs themselves are possible for beginner face painters to paint the way they have been presented will make it hard for many to duplicate without some extra help.

As typical with any Wolfe Brothers designs the work in these books is great and would please anyone they were painted on!

As “how to” books these three “Cheat Books” are great tools for face painters who are looking for more of a challenge and some new ideas. I think they are a great addition to any face painter’s inspirational library. Even if you aren’t quite sure what to do now with some of the designs you will soon be able to figure it out!

Reviewed by Shannon Fennell© January 2008