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Art of Making Marks

Wacom celebrates 25 years of excellence with this inspiring limited-edition resource

Author/Publisher: Ric Holland/IdN

Web: www.idnworld.com

Price: \$40 (approximately £25)

About: Discover those who have significantly contributed to Wacom development

Interviews with top industry techheads and designers

Eclectic mix of inspiring commercial styles

Advice and history from worldwide key creatives, including John Derry and Russell Brown

Wacom has been at the forefront of digital drawing equipment for many years – 25 in total. In this time the creative industry has eagerly adopted its technology, and *Art of Making Marks* is a limited edition title that catalogues its progress. Essentially, this editorial resource celebrates the adaptive and creative nature of the Wacom input device and its wider range of application uses.

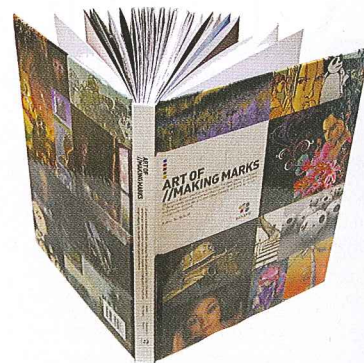
Digital painters, photo retouchers, graphic designers, illustrators and 3D artists will all find this book at least fascinating, if not encouraging. *Art of Making Marks* serves up an impressive mix of styles from top commercial artists, all producing their design with a little help from drawing tablet technology. The works presented are a real tour de force of commercial design, which not only inspire but also make

apparent the potential for your own artwork when using Wacom devices.

The hardback book is littered with industry interviews, timelines and case studies from big hitters, such as VFX technical director Julian Tylney Taylor and Ken Lambert, creative director at Ink Project. Each of these are presented in a question-and-answer format, which offers an insight into the evolution of the artist or studio, and reveals how drawing tablet technology has contributed to their creative progress. There are also more nostalgic case studies from industry techheads, such as Adobe Systems worldwide creative director Russell Brown, who endorse or explain exactly how they have contributed to the Wacom revolution.

Artists can take much from these resources, as they not only share interesting secrets but also educate you in what to expect in the commercial arena. This makes *Art of Making Marks* a highly enlightening read as well as an aesthetic feast. Each case study comes equipped with detailed, coloured thumbnails of project workflows and individual art pieces. This title also presents a Wacom Showcase section. In here, the latest generation of graphics tablet users present their influential design. We found that Jeff Wong (www.jeffwong.com) and Hui Tian (www.huitianart.com) were particularly impressive.

Get your copy with free shipping discount for a limited time from <http://idnworld.com/discounts/wacom/>. ■



HEAR FROM THE BEST: This title presents some of the world's foremost design pioneers and innovators who use Wacom's digital drawing devices

SUMMARY: A mixed bag of commercial creative culture and aesthetic delights. Wacom has come a very long way and this limited-edition title reveals how it has carried artists along with it. Interesting and truly inspiring.

8/10

Big Book of Contemporary Illustration

Indulge in artistic impression hand over fist with this rewarding creative title

Authors/Publisher: Martin Dawber/Anova Books

Web: www.anovabooks.com

Price: £20/\$29.95

About: Authored by Martin Dawber, principle lecturer in fashion at Liverpool John Moores University

Over 1,000 illustration examples from 400 commercial artists

Covers a range of core traditional and digital media

Eight jam-packed themed creative chapters

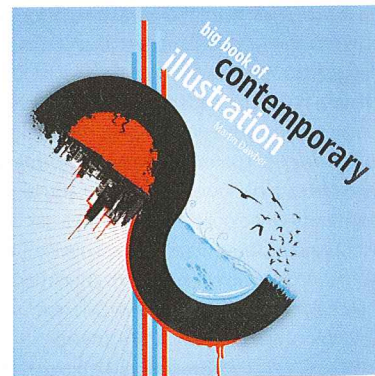
When you hear the title of this book, your mind runs wild with possibilities. The promise of over 1,000 pieces of art from 400 global artists started us salivating at the potential creativity at hand. However, once you lay eyes on the book's cover you'd be forgiven in thinking that promises are about to be sorely broken.

This title doesn't make the best first impression, but then again looks can be deceiving. Yes, the cover is bland; yes, the graphical layout of the contents and chapter intro pages are elementary at best; and yes, this can make you slightly apprehensive. But when this title gets rolling with the presented imagery, it's absolutely stunning.

Both traditional and digital styles cohabit the book's pages. Textiles, pencil, pen and ink, vector and pixel, mixed media and digital paint are some of the mediums applied and represented. Every working example is as unique as the next, which gives the title a rich aesthetic approach and creates visual interest on each page without creative bias.

Although the *Big Book of Contemporary Illustration* offers up a veritable mountain of artwork, it's all easily digestible for any level of reader. This title spreads its illustration across themed chapters. These include Built Environment, Natural World, Comic, Graphic, Technical and Documentary, Lifestyle, Travel and Imaginary. We were particularly fond in the *Advanced Photoshop* office of the Technical and Documentary section, especially the designs of Niklas Lundberg (www.diftype.com), Chris Padilla (www.coroflot.com) and Marina Durante (www.duranteillustrations.it).

All of the styles on display inspire across a range of projects, including web, editorial, comic, architectural, apparel and advertising design. This is certainly a great resource for those creatives in higher education, and will also accommodate freelancers and design studios looking for inspiration for that big project or personal work. The sheer breadth of design also reinforces that illustration is still an extremely commercially viable styles. ■



EXPLORE ARTISTS: If you are particularly fond of an artist's imagery, why not divulge in more of their design? The *Big Book of Contemporary Illustration* presents an artist index, including email and web addresses

SUMMARY: A wholly inspirational resource that's extremely impressive through its diverse styles and mediums. This title demonstrates the possibilities you may never have imagined with an illustrative approach.

8/10