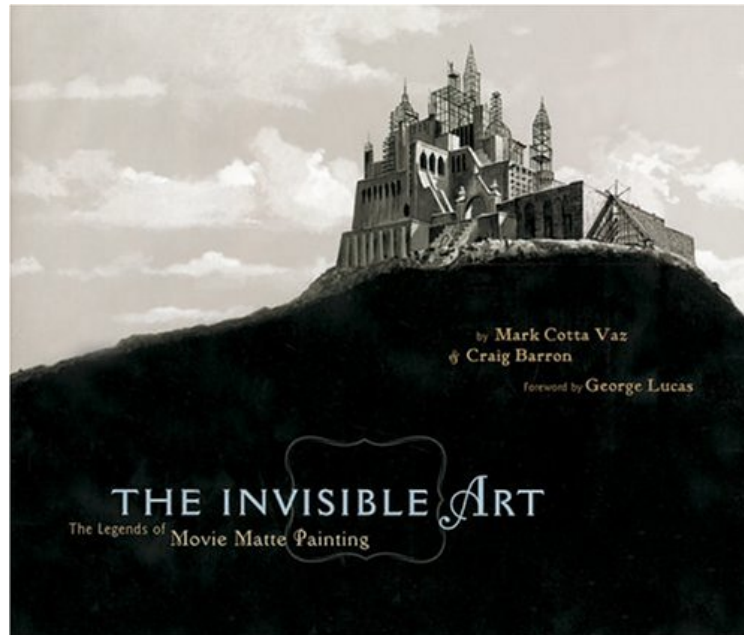


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The Invisible Art: The Legends of Movie Matte Painting

Mark Cotta Vaz, Craig Barron
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Mark Cotta Vaz, Craig Barron : The Invisible Art: The Legends of Movie Matte Painting before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Invisible Art: The Legends of Movie Matte Painting:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Markusreally a wonderful book0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. BeautifulBy Lauren KushnerIt's a beautiful book with fascinating information. It takes apart scenes in movies that have matte paintings -- showing you the components that went into the painting.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Worth looking forBy R. GoreyTo anyone interested in the golden age of moviemaking, in special effects, or the art of this very specialized skill, this book will be a grand treat. The author knows his subject, and knows some of the images created by these artists are among the most powerful and indelible in the movies. Lavishly illustrated and quite thorough, "The Invisible Art" is a treasure trove of behind the scenes information, explanations, and dissections of the complicated process by which these fantasy environments and set extensions were realized. It's an expensive book (the softcover is slightly less pricey) but there has never been a film book like this, on this subject. Other special effects guides reference matte painting, but no one has ever analyzed the technique in this way. Films profiled include "King Kong" "Wizard of Oz" "Citizen Kane" "Thief of Bagdad" "Black Narcissus" and "Ten Commandments", among dozens of others. A wonderful job by someone who clearly cares for his subject.

Now available in paperback, The Invisible Art provides an unprecedented retrospective of matte art painting -- the unsung hero in the fast-paced world of cinematic visual effects. Until recently, matte-painting techniques were closely guarded secrets kept locked up on studio lots. The Invisible Art flings open the gates to reveal the finest

representations of matte paintings from rare examples seen in epics such as *Gone with the Wind* and *Citizen Kane* to prove that the brush is mightier than the computer, as seen in such blockbusters as *Star Wars* and *Titanic*. Lavishly illustrated, the book's tremendous scope unveils a century's worth of fascinating stories, legendary personalities, and cunning movie craft from the first pioneering "glass shots" to the dawn of digital technology. Including a foreword by George Lucas, *The Invisible Art* conjures a never-before-told story of film wizardry.

About the Author Mark Cotta Vaz recently completed his 19th book, a biography of Merian C. Cooper, creator of King Kong which is scheduled to be published by Random House in 2005. Vaz's books on movie history include *Industrial Light + Magic: Into the Digital Realm*, which Craig Barron has been an innovator in the cinematic technique of matte painting for the last two decades, playing a key role in the effects for films from *The Empire Strikes Back* to *The Last Samurai*. A veteran of George Lucas's effects company, Industrial Light + Magic, Barron now heads Matte World Digital. He is currently creating the visual effects for an Imax film on the Universe for professor Stephen Hawking. Barron lives in Marin County, California.