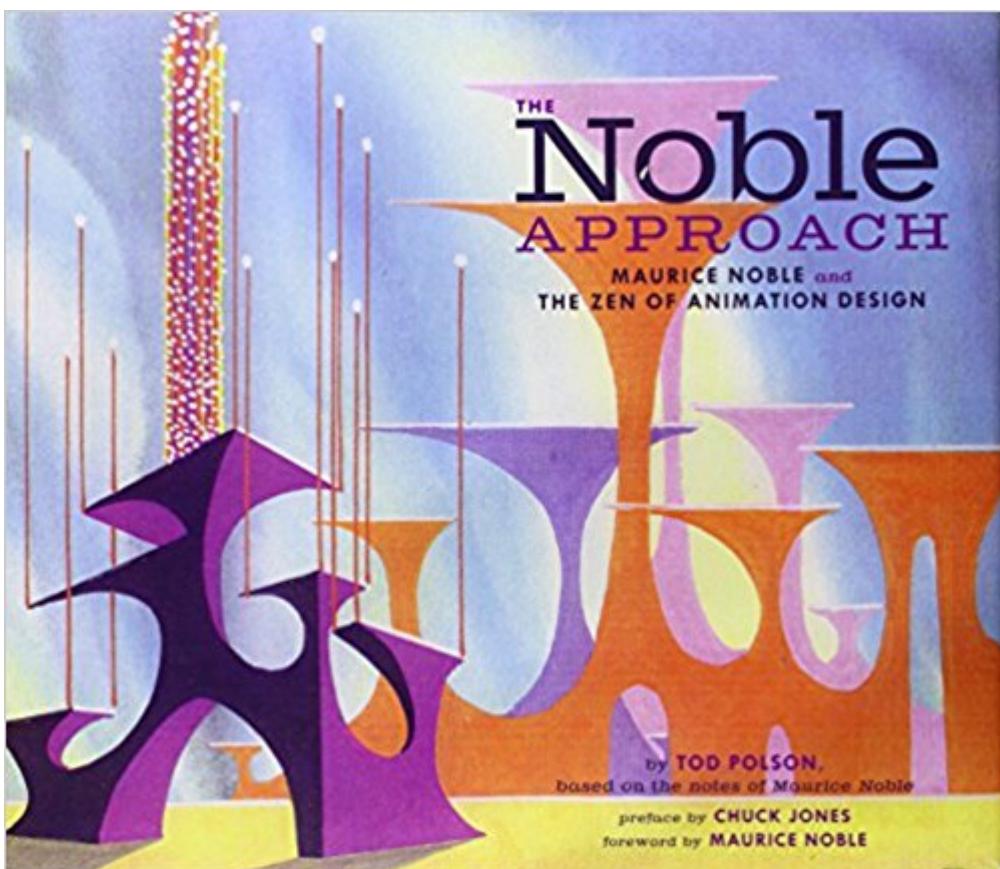


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# The Noble Approach: Maurice Noble And The Zen Of Animation Design



## Synopsis

This extraordinary volume examines the life and animation philosophy of Maurice Noble, the noted American animation background artist and layout designer whose contributions to the industry span more than 60 years and include such cartoon classics as Duck Dodgers in the 24th Century, What's Opera, Doc?, and The Road Runner Show. Revered throughout the animation world, his work serves as a foundation and reference point for the current generation of animators, story artists, and designers. Written by Noble's longtime friend and colleague Tod Polson and based on the draft manuscript Noble worked on in the years before his death, this illuminating book passes on his approach to animation design from concept to final frame, illustrated with sketches and stunning original artwork spanning the full breadth of his career.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

" an exquisitely designed art book...The Noble Approach: Maurice Noble and the Zen of Animation Design is a truly essential book that belongs in every animator's and animation fan's library." - AnimationWorld Holiday Gift Guide Pick- Ain't It Cool News Holiday Gift Guide Pick - Entertainment Weekly "one of the best animation books of the year...a fantastic look at the master artist's inspiring work process, providing a rich collection of artwork, notes, lovely anecdotes and valuable lessons about creating timeless toons." - Animation Magazine "The Noble Approach: Maurice Noble and the Zen of Animation Design ranks among the most unique and delightful animation books in recent memory. It goes without saying that the book's well-balanced mix of technical tips and anecdotal

advice makes it a must-buy title for professional artists and students, but it should also appeal to fans of classic of animation who will surely gain a renewed appreciation for the Chuck Jones canon." - Cartoon Brew "I've used the term "must-have" before - but I compel every one of you reading this site and this review to order this book immediately. You will not regret it." -Cartoon Research

Tod Polson first studied design at Otis/Parsons, and animation at CalArts before apprenticing under pioneering animation designer Maurice Noble. Since then, he has worked extensively as a filmmaker, designer, and teacher. He lives in Wyoming.

If you're reading this review, you obviously don't need an introduction to who Maurice Noble was. His contributions as a designer and layout man to such landmark animated films as RABBIT SEASONING, WHAT'S OPERA DOC?, DUCK AMUCK, ROBIN HOOD DAFFY, the Road Runner series, and DUCK DODGERS IN THE 241/2TH CENTURY make his name as firmly inseparable from them as the director Chuck Jones's. Tod Polson was a protégé of Noble's who has finally realized his generous teacher's dream of putting all of Noble's notes and theories on animation design in book form. You'll first learn about Noble's history and find out how things were like in the ever-evolving Golden Age of animation, and then how things got so bad that Noble was afraid the wisdom he mistook for common knowledge would vanish into the ether - hence why he wanted his thoughts recorded in the first place! If you want to know how Noble did it and how you can possibly instill some of his own virtues into your work, don't just watch the films. Let Polson take you on this very intimate journey and show you how Noble took care to make sure his design met the needs of every single element of an animated film and not the other way around. More importantly, the book is lavishly and colorfully illustrated to appropriately aid the instructions, driving home every point clearly and beautifully. Anyone with an interest in animation, filmmaking, or art in general should buy this book without hesitation. It'd be the Noble thing to do!

The Noble Approach is a book that's part biography and part animation design tips featuring the late great Maurice Noble. As a kid, I would watch the Warner Bros cartoons and never think about things like art and design. They are good which is why people watch them. Well, in this book, you'll go behind the scenes and look at the person who has a hand at creating some of these animated productions, and understand his design philosophies. Author Tod Polson who has apprenticed under Noble has done a good job with the biography detailing the designer's life and career right from the

start. It's an inspiring tale of someone who has gone through a tumultuous period, with the need to support his family while still young, going through various career changes, having the ups and downs with co-workers, while still maintaining the passion to put out good design for animation and screen. The biography is about a third of the book. The rest are his philosophies on design. It's on how he handles story beats, story elements, using reference, contrast, simplifying elements, colour theory, perspective, layout, and more. The text and the illustrated examples are insightful. It's a collection of design principles he has learned and compiled over the 60 years he spent in the industry. It's a good book for those into animation and design, or into traditional animation design. (There are more pictures of the book on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.)

One of the best animation books I have. I've collected many animation books. This one is at the top of the heap. There's plenty of great art examples in this book from one of - if not the best animation bg designers of all time. Much of the art is in raw form to illustrate points - it's not just a series of pretty pictures. And you get to hear his perspective on design for animation and read insights into the business that are just as pertinent today - even more so, because today many talented young designers are clueless about the ideas Maurice expresses and would benefit greatly from them. In addition, it's an easy read: It's broken into subjects and the authors don't get too philosophical. Most of the material is clear, concise and helpful to anyone working in animation.

Maurice Noble was the biggest influence on me in my decision to enter the animation arena. Maurice created most of the layouts (the backgrounds) for Chuck Jones during the classic Warner Bros. cartoons era. As a kid, I would specifically look for Maurice's and Chuck's names to appear in the credits, because I knew it was going to be a great cartoon. I now have a wonderful companion book to Frank & Ollie's "The Illusion of Life" as a valuable learning guide to study the masters of animation.

With so many books about other animation mavericks, this book is long overdue. Tod Polson created a great tribute to his old mentor. The book is packed with wonderful illustrations and stills from Maurice's life's work. There were a couple places where the book needed a proof-reader for grammar and repeated words; but let's face it, the book is for artists and when was the last time we actually read a book all the way through. I strongly suggest buying this book if you love animation art or if you are a student of animation. A great addition to my library. Also, I recommend taking the dust jacket off to look at the two layout drawings on the front and back cover. They aren't reprinted

inside the book and they are fantastic drawings.

I like this book very much. It's not all about "how-to" or "step-by-step", it's more about the way of thinking, that was exactly what I was looking for. I recommend this book for everybody interested in animation and also to those who like me try to find useful book for self-education. This book is like a conversation with teacher I always wanted to meet. I find some useful tips in this book, but I like the interviews and thoughts even more. I wish I could meet such teacher in my life, so I'm glad I've read this book.

I'm sorry I waited so long to buy this. There's a lot to be learned about design for artists of any discipline. It is much much more than just a compendium of Maurice Noble's fantastic art.

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