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Stencil Girl: Mixed-Media Techniques For Making And Using Stencils



Synopsis

It's time to see what the stencil can do! The simple stencil can be the most versatile tool in your creative studio. Stencils create background effects, foreground details and a complex beauty that's surprisingly easy to achieve. In *Stencil Girl*, Mary Beth Shaw will lead you step-by-step through 18 projects that will have you thinking about stencils in a whole new light as you discover how to use them with paint, wood burning, encaustic, hand stitching, metalwork and much more. Prepare to be inspired by what's inside! Helpful tips for the best way to use stencils in a wide range of applications. Complete step-by-step instruction for a variety of projects including art for the wall, home decor, gifts and "just for fun." Inspiring gallery pieces from 20 contributing artists, plus many bonus projects with links to online instruction. Start to explore the potential of the stencil today. See how *Stencil Girl* will open up a new world of art-making possibilities to satisfy your creative cravings.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mary Beth is a mixed-media artist, workshop instructor, owner of Stencil Girl Products and author of *Flavor for Mixed Media* (North Light, 2011). She writes a bi-monthly column for Somerset Studio, regularly appears on a craft segment of her local news channel and teaches at major art retreats year round.

****I bought this lovely book hoping that it would help me find creative ways to use the many stencils I own. It is a gorgeous book and the author seems very talented. Each chapter has step-by-step instructions for a project along with pictures of each step, followed up by examples of other artists'

work using the same medium; for example, if it was working with felt, there would be some examples of what other artists had done with stencils and felt. The work seemed very creative to me. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to follow the instructions for any of the projects. I couldn't understand how to do the steps. I would need definitions of some of the words and instructions for the techniques the author wrote about--maybe to have the steps broken down into 4-5 mini-steps. It was far beyond me. For example, the first instruction for the first project: "Begin with a Claybord substrate. Carve into the surface with a craft knife or carving tool, using geometric stencils as a guide." I don't know what a Claybord substrate is. I have a craft knife but can't really tell exactly what she is doing in the picture. The second instruction: "Add another more detailed stencil under the original stencil. Put a thin layer of Wood Icing (about as thick as the stencil itself) on the area covered by both stencils, using an offset palette knife." I don't know how to position the stencils...there is a picture, but I still can't figure it out from looking at it. I don't understand Wood Icing. I don't have or know how to use an offset palette knife. There are pictures, but I was unable to understand this project--or any project--by studying them. It gets harder as you go along. If you understand what I wrote above, this book may be perfect for you. I am saving it because it is a gorgeous book and certainly is packed with ideas. When I learn more about how to use stencils, I will return to it. If anyone has any recommendation for a good book for beginners with stencils, could you please leave your recommendation in the comments? I would appreciate it. Recommended, but not for beginners with stencils or mixed-media. ****

I was a little disappointed in the content....advanced mixed media articles

I expected something more but actually this talks about the different media that can be used together to enhance your project. Good reference book.

no problems

I love and own a lot of stencils. I found numerous new ideas for using them.

Quick shipper happy with product

I love books... and I congratulate people who take their time especially in the mixed-media realm. It's bursting with inspiring with people who love the arts and crafts and I would love to be among

them. I have to admit I'm in the reading stage of it all. Stencils are just one more tool to wet your appetite!!! Her abstract paintings are beautiful. And I don't like abstract. That's saying something. Her backgrounds are so; "How did you do that?" Her photographs of her work is just inspiring and there is so much to learn from her. I love her encaustics and her fibers are fabulous! And her wall papers... She took her tool and took every media and worked it. I love the book and It's just one of many wonderful layers of mixed-media to try and work into your studio. Buy it. Kay

"Stencil Girl Mixed Media Techniques for Making and Using Stencils" Making- ah, that is what i want! However, the actually cutting of, making of stencils is on 2 pages. So why put 'Making' in the title??? And i agree with the reviewer who said that the projects were "ugly", and was really astounded by the comments made by other readers of this book. It really is okay not to like something, even other artists work. And to find it ugly, although this word is unkind. I did find most of the art not at all to my taste. I did not like the colors, the technique which was sloppy in many of the examples used here, amateurish. I realize that this messy look is a style but not a good style. I am sorry but that is my opinion. There was one lovely piece by Laurie Mika, emotive, restrained, balanced, well made- i loved it! So the lack of a section on making stencils is annoying. If the book is not about making stencils do not put it in the title!!!! IT IS MISLEADING. If you are not a professional, this book may be fun, and one might like to try some of the techniques. But I was already irritated that the title was inaccurate so i do not look too kindly at this books examples. By the way, if a craft book is "NOT for beginners", i have always felt that it should say so right on the cover. Mystery is only good in fiction.

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