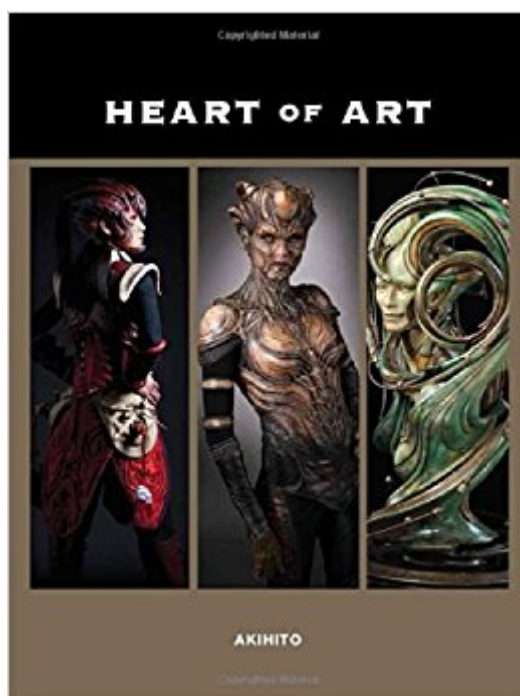


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# Heart Of Art: A Glimpse Into The Wondrous World Of Special Effects Makeup And Fine Art Of Akihito



## Synopsis

Akihito brings inimitable and interesting characters to life. The Heart of Art welcomes one to look deeper into the creative process and motivation behind the work of Akihito. Whether you are a designer, sculptor, makeup artist, or fine artist, this book will regale, challenge and inspire. The Heart of Art features the extraordinary work of an artist that creates characters that meld a love of Japan, its culture, and its rich history into fantastic works.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Akihito was born in the Fukuoka prefecture in southern Japan. When he was young he appreciated horror movies, creatures, and the fantastic. He constructed unique creations from the images he saw. Growing up, Akihito's parents strictly emphasized schooling and lessons over play and toys. This pushed Akihito toward more imaginative outlets and he created Gundams, cars, and creatures using materials he had at hand such as bamboo, clay, paper, and tape. As his skills matured he began to be interested in special makeup effects. In 1997, 1998, and 2000, Akihito won first place in TV's Champions' Special Effects Make-up King competition. 1998 was a busy year for Akihito, at that time he won the Avante Garde make-up competition at the IMATS (International Make-up Trade Show) held in the United States. He also produced an original special make-up effects fashion show in Tokyo. His work has been featured in Spectrum's Book of The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art two years in a row. He has worked as a key artist and sculptor on a great number of films but most notable and recent are "World War Z", "Hunger Games", "Transformers", "The

Hulk, Alien vs. Predator Franchise, Alice in Wonderland, and worked on the Academy Award winning "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe".

As an Artist I am always looking for new Art expressions in any kind of media. The first time a glare at the cover of this book, I knew I was in for a delightful treat. Akihito's art work is exquisite and unique. His designs are so gracious and delicate but at the same time they are filled with an amazing visual power. Every little detail has been taken care of to the extreme perfection. His paint work complements his sculptures in a well balanced harmony of shapes and colors. I could spend hours looking through those pages and keep finding new things every time! One of my favorite parts of this book is the "How to" tutorials. This is a great reference for any aspiring or professional Sculptor, Visual or make-up Artist. Akihito's book, is a must have. Get it or regret it!

This book was worth the money. The art work and details of it was beyond amazing.

Beautiful work sculpted by an elite artist. The 'behind the scenes' photos of how Mr. Ikeda built his pieces are a great addition. Inspirational stuff.

Love it.

Very happy with purchase.

Very good artistic book. His fx are extreme

Akihito Ikeda is a professional special-effects makeup artist and designer who has worked in the film industry for 19 years. He had worked in Japan for 9 years before moving to Los Angeles. Akihito's technical skills are amazing, and so is his sense of design and aesthetics. The work featured is a mixture of sculpture art, and special-effects makeup for actors. Large high resolution photographs are used to enable you to see the minute details in each sculpture. Several angles are shown. Each design is unique and deserves the time it needs for you to slowly marvel at the beauty of the work. The sculptures, mostly characters, are often a blend of resin, metal and cloth. The coloring, texture and finishing really make them look terrific. It's difficult to explain what I'm seeing except to say that his art has a combination of mystique and fantasy. The last time I was so fascinated by

sculptures was looking at Kris Kuksi's book *Divination and Delusion*. The latter pages look at the special-effects makeup. It includes characters he created for a Hollywood makeup program, theatre work, runway shows, art festivals, and other events. A few of the examples in the book have also appeared in *A Complete Guide to Special Effects Makeup*. The fully realised characters after makeup are really beautiful. There's just something more life-like to these characters compared to 3D rendered models. A few pages of sketches and character concept art are also included in the book. The last section in the book looks at the process of creating the sculptures and applying makeup to the actors. There are many photos looking at the different steps in the process, and commentary is provided for all. It's insightful to read about the creation process, and to find out the tools, materials and paints used. There's explanation for the sculpting, casting, molding and painting processes, and also a bit on how costumes are created. This is a fantastic artbook that really showcases the creativity and beauty of Akihito's work. It should be inspiring for those in the same industry. Highly recommended. (See more pictures of the book on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.)

Beautiful collection from a sculptor I'd never even heard of. Apparently Akihito has been around a long time, but I was not familiar with his work until I purchased this book. The pictures are absolutely perfect for displaying his sculptures and make-up effects. There are 3 main sections:

Sculpture/Drawings (and digital work)/Make-up Effects. I could have done without the small section on his drawings. They are mostly rough works and sketches. He's a much better sculptor than penciler. There's also a section in the back explaining his process for making reproductions (molding and casting). I would have loved to see more detail into this part of the book and also more detail on his process of creating the sculpts. As a sculptor myself, I'd love to get some tips from someone as talented as Akihito. But whether you're a sculptor or designer, or just a fan of art in general, this book is well worth the cover price, let alone the price.

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