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Science Of Creature Design: Understanding Animal Anatomy



Synopsis

What is creature design? We all have a notion—mostly consisting of evocative images of otherworldly beings galloping, swimming, flying, and often attacking the hero of an epic film or story. But what makes a creature believable? In the follow-up to her bestseller, *Animals Real and Imagined: The Fantasy of What Is and What Might Be*, world-renowned artist Terryll Whitlatch reveals the secret behind believable creature design: anatomy. How anatomy applies practically to the natural history and story is the prime cornerstone on which successful creature design hangs, whether the creature is real or imaginary. Studying, understanding, drawing, and applying accurate anatomy to an imaginary creature will make viewers suspend their disbelief to welcome a new vision into their worlds. We invite you to immerse yourself in the intricate workings of numerous animal anatomies and the beauty they possess in the *Science of Creature Design: Understanding Animal Anatomy*. Whitlatch's delightful and charismatic illustrations will inform and thrill readers with every turn of the page. She shares valuable techniques reaped from years working for Lucasfilm and Walt Disney Feature Animation, and on such films as *Jumanji*, *Brother Bear*, and *The Polar Express*. In addition, Whitlatch exemplifies an endless love for real animals that continues to inspire her fantastic imaginary creatures, which have captivated audiences around the world.

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Customer Reviews

"Creature design has never looked as simultaneously simple and fantastically complicated. By laying out literally every bone of her creatures, Whitlatch makes creation seem

effortless – just follow nature, connect the bones, add the muscles, and color the skin. These books do assume a familiarity with drawing, but even first-timers will gain something from the series. Even if it's simply inspiration.

– Kyle Hill, Nerdist

Terryl Whitlatch is an accomplished, scientifically and academically trained illustrator who extensively studied vertebrate zoology and animal anatomy. She has worked for various zoos and museums in the United States and as senior consultant on Wildlife Art and Animal Anatomy for the World Wildlife Fund. She is considered to be one of the top creature designers and animal anatomists working in the field today. In a career spanning more than 25 years, Whitlatch has many projects to her credit, including *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*, *Star Wars: The Special Edition*, *Jumanji*, *Men in Black*, *Brother Bear*, *Dragonheart*, *Alvin and the Chipmunks*, *Curious George*, *The Polar Express*, and *Beowulf*. For over seven years, she worked for Lucasfilm, Industrial Light & Magic, and George Lucas's JAK Films. Her illustration skills and comprehensive knowledge of animal anatomy and movement are essential in the development of believable creature creation.

After reading her books, Terryl Whitlatch became one of my professional raw-models. Through this 3 book collection (I only bought this one and "Principles of creature design"), she shows you her work and process, as well as her "rules" to achieve a realistic believable creature. Don't expect a detailed drawing tutorial because it is not that. It is more like a very complete portfolio with very useful advises from the author. You will find some examples of animals and their full anatomy. The printing quality of this book is remarkable; one can truly appreciate her art in detail. The binding is very good as well. The author's writing is brief and clear. If you are into animal anatomy drawing and/or character concept design... well, you must have Whitlatch's work in hand. You will find this book useful and nurturing.

Amazing book for animal anatomy and one of the only text I have found on Paleo-Reconstruction. Really gets to the bottom on how to draw from skeleton, to adding muscles and finally adding the skin and fur. I can't say enough about this book. Thank you Terryl for putting this resource in one concise volume. The book I have been looking for, for quiet sometime. A++++ Buy this book if drawing animals is your thing!

I love this book for art references about animal anatomy that varies from birds, horses, gorillas, and

dinosaurs. The book gives you ideas about how to combine skeletal structures to produce unique and believable creatures of fiction.

As with all of Whitlatch's books, this one is a great deal to see how she works and what her processes are. 100% Great purchase!

A gorgeous book in an unusual long format! There are pencil sketches laying out ideas and general animal anatomy. And a wide number of the artists own creature designs...all in beautiful color! The book speaks to a more advanced artist.

easily the best book on creature design I've ever owned absolutely amazing art and absolutely great insight into the biology of the fantastic

Really impressed

Excelent book!

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