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Spectrum 20: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art

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From Underwood Books : Spectrum 20: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spectrum 20: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art:

17 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Twenty Years! - Well done.By jpcooperFor those who own, or have viewed, any of the nineteen previous Spectrum collections this newest volume follows the same format and includes a number of the same artists. If "Fantastic" art is to your liking this newest offering should be a welcome addition to your library. There is something here for everybody. Which, of course, means that a fair number of the entries will be of marginal interest but will be compensated by a few others that will just knock your socks off.I have collected the Spectrum series from the first volume and they are always something to look forward to. The editors consistently present the very best artists in the field and there is not one edition I haven't enjoyed looking through over and over again.It is interesting to contrast the works in the earlier volumes and see just how far the quality of the art

has progressed. I enjoy the early editions but there is no question, at least in my judgement, that today's artists have really ratcheted it up a few notches. The work in the later Spectrum series volumes is much more polished and, seen in its entirety, much more diverse. There seems to be some controversy regarding the mediums employed in the production of these works (the digital vs traditional debate). I am not in a position to weigh in with any meaningful commentary as I am not an artist myself. I will not likely be owning any of the originals from these artists, whatever the format, so I just relax in a nice comfortable chair and enjoy them for the pleasure and creativity they do offer. I know I couldn't produce anything nearly as impressive with a brush, pencil, pen, keyboard or mouse so a big hat-tip to those of you that can. Will be pre-ordering #21 as soon as it has been listed - Thanks! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My 20th issue... By Mark J. Werner I've been getting the Spectrum collection every year for Xmas since the first one came out 20 years ago. Got 'em all. If you enjoy fantasy, sci-fi, and/or comic art... This is a must. The very best of each year's efforts. I have dabbled in small-scale sculpture, so the 3-D section is always particularly interesting to me. Some of the stuff being put out in this genre every year, mostly for commercial publication... Makes the vast gamut of "modern" art look downright silly. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best Fantastic Art Book By A.M. Landaker The best of fantasy, sci-fi, horror, and comic art of the year. Yes, there's still some "sexy fantasy seductress" art that makes my feminist side cringe, but it is more than balanced out by thoughtful, original, awe-inspiring pieces. Some make you laugh, some tell epic stories all on their own, some make you think, and some are just downright fun.

Challenging, controversial, educational, and irreverent, the award-winning Spectrum series reinforces both the importance and prevalence of fantastic art in today's culture. With exceptional images by extraordinary creators, this elegant full-color collection showcases an international cadre of creators working in every style and medium, both traditional and digital. The best artists from the United States, Europe, China, Australia, South America and beyond have gathered into the only annual devoted exclusively to works of fantasy, horror, science fiction, and the surreal, making Spectrum one of the year's highly most anticipated books. Featured in SPECTRUM 20 are 300 diverse visionaries, many of them world-renowned, including Michael Whelan, Sam Weber, Donato Giancola, Leo Diane Dillon, Kinuko Craft, James Gurney, Peter de Sève. With art from books, graphic novels, video games, films, galleries, and advertising, Spectrum is both an electrifying art book for fans and an invaluable resource for clients looking for bright new talent. The entire field is discussed in an invaluable, found-nowhere-else Year In Review. Contact information for each artist is included in a handy index.

"Spectrum is a compendium of wonders—a treasure-hoard of incalculable value. Over the years, these books have provided me with an enormous amount of inspiration: fantastical images that have suggested and enriched my stories. I can't recommend Spectrum enough. Buy this book now and revel in the dreams within." --Christopher Paolini, Bestselling author of the Inheritance Cycle "The latest Spectrum annual surpasses all expectations with stunning fantasy art." --ImagineFX Magazine "...a feast for the eye and the imagination." --New Times "[Spectrum] most definitely belongs in the library of any art lover or artist." --Airbrush Art + Action "A full color presentation of the current state of the art—charming, sublime, exotic, horrific..." --Locus "The best annual out there!" --James Gurney, creator of Dynotopia "I'm hooked ... This is a fantastic book." --The Fringe "If you are a lover of fantastic art this is the ONE book you must have each year!" --Mania Entertainment "A dandy look at the year in contemporary fantastic art ... highly recommended." --Green Man