

Painted Illusions

Melanie Royals

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Melanie Royals : Painted Illusions before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Painted Illusions:

34 of 34 people found the following review helpful. Mouth Droppingly BeautifulBy Sunny SkiesThis is my first book by this author and I was blown away. I am not a big fan of the folk-art type of decor BUT there are only a couple of examples of that style in this book. The remainder designs would rival Debbie Travis'.Where do I start? Her freeform stencil of the grapevines and scrolls is one of the prettiest examples of layering of stencils. I think why I like her is that it's MUCH MORE realistic looking than most of the stencil art out there. I think it must be her technique.My favorite part of the book is from chapter 3 to the end of the book. The photos are great in showing how to do each step. A lot of embossing and faux fabric techniques that look exactly like damask and other patterned fabric. It is really amazing. Now don't get me wrong, I did not like every wall in this book. The Batik was not for me, only because it looked too "country" for my taste, but again, the technique could be used for a different design. The Oriental Brocade was a little too much for me.This author got it right in how to demonstrate the steps. They are all numbered in order and the pictures clearly demonstrate the technique. She even has a technique that looks like crewel embroidery. To me, the best techniques in the book were:~Embossed Leather - looks so real. I think I am going to try it in my husband's study~Decorative Carved Dado - it REALLY looks carved~Faux Stone Tile~Carved Stone Frieze~Velvet Embossing~Printed Linen~Damask - done is a beautiful tone-on-tone~Shimmering SilkIf I had just looked at the pictures, I would have said, "How beautiful! Wish I could do that," but with the explicit details and instructions, I

really think I can. Well worth the money and I plan on looking up more of this author's books. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Just what I was looking for
By Crystal
This was a fantastic book to get you familiar with a variety of stenciling techniques. It's simple and has hints about what products and tools work best. I was very pleased with this purchase. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By noilif...
good info Thank

Transform an ordinary surface into a work of art! Add incredible beauty and elegance to your home with *Painted Illusions*. Stencil master Melanie Royals provides the instruction and inspiration you need to create remarkable painted effects that fool the eye. Even if you've never painted before, you can achieve professional-quality results with these simple stencil techniques and Royal's easy-to-follow direction. Through 19 step-by-step projects, you'll learn to create beautiful wall finishes that mimic fabrics such as linen, batik, and damask as well as trompe l'oeil effects on floors, tables and mantelpieces. Each project uses stencils, so there are no difficult painting techniques to master. Once you learn the basic principles and skills, there is no limit to the way you can apply textures, designs, and patterns throughout your home for a sophisticated, elegant look.

About the Author Melanie Royals, director and principal instructor at the San Diego School of Decorative Painting, is an experienced professional home decorator specializing in stencils and paint effects. Her work has appeared in several American publications.