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Maskmaking
From simple variations on brown paper bags to bal masqué designs, plaster and plasticene molds "the whole range!"

**Synopsis**

This is a wonderful book that can teach anyone how to easily make beautiful masks. It is especially nice for teachers & parents for exploring maskmaking with children of all ages because of sections featuring easily made masks. The book starts out with a brief history of masks as art. A vast array of techniques are shown using a variety of easily found materials. These may include balloons, clay, plaster, papier-mâché, wire, buckram, & celastic. Each maskmaking method includes a complete materials list & is demonstrated with b/w photos and easy-to-follow step-by-step instructions. At the back there is a great chapter on creatively fishing the masks & then protecting them. Example masks in b/w & a small color gallery in the middle are nice bonuses. This is a great book for anyone wanting to create unique masks.

I initially bought this book to help me teach maskmaking at a summer camp for children. Instead of sitting on the bookshelf at school, however, this book has been living in my art studio! Sivin's lovely book describes and illustrates maskmaking techniques that involve plaster, clay, paper, papier-mache, wire, fabric and many other materials. Her instructions are easy to follow, and she
suggests a range of materials that are quite available and practical. Furthermore, the illustrations are very inspirational. She has chosen pictures of masks made by children, adults and professional artists. Some of them are funny, some are beautiful, ethereal or cute, and many are downright creepy. There is also a short history of world masks in the first chapter. Although it is not terribly detailed (and doesn’t touch at all on the masks of Australia or Oceania), it gives the reader a little background before jumping into instruction. In the month that I have owned this book, I have tried a number of Sivin’s techniques—and have had uncontrollable urges to be CONSTANTLY making masks.

I consider this one of the better books on Maskmaking techniques. It has easy to follow directions in a variety of modeling methods. Well illustrated, it makes what could have been a dry lifeless book into something that is accessible to all levels of Maskmaking experience.

This is by far one of the best books available on the art of maskmaking. It provides inspiration and clear instructions on technique for the beginners, as well as very useful references for the professional maskmaker. This book always accompanies me when I am given courses on the subject of masks.

Finally a book that gives me all kinds of different ideas for making masks. Unique uses of different supplies and materials that practical and easy to find. Easy-to-follow instructions. Lots of photos and inspiration. There are instructions for simple masks made out of paper plates or paper bags and more involved out of papier-mache, buckram and wire. Excellent instructions. One of the better books on maskmaking. Good purchase for me and will be for you, too.

This book is for beginners ONLY. If you have ever tried to create your own masks in the past, you have probably figured out these techniques on your own. I was hoping for more finishing techniques, I received none. The examples in the book look amateur and sloppy. It’s a great book for someone who has NEVER tried to make a mask before or someone who needs to come up with a children’s project (There is a whole section devoted to relating to kids). Most of the techniques described in this book can be found on online tutorials for free.

This is the perfect book for a new beginner thinking of making your own mask. I have really enjoyed the book! Thanks
This book is a good book for the novice mask maker, however, the information has been surpassed by online resources, including u-tube and other online print sources. Much of the book is for juvenile maskmakers, and includes paper masks. Also, it has an old copyright, so, if you are a serious maskmaking student, look elsewhere for tutorials that include more modern or sophisticated techniques. It is a good resource for teachers, but not earthshattering for adults.

Harriet Heywood

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