

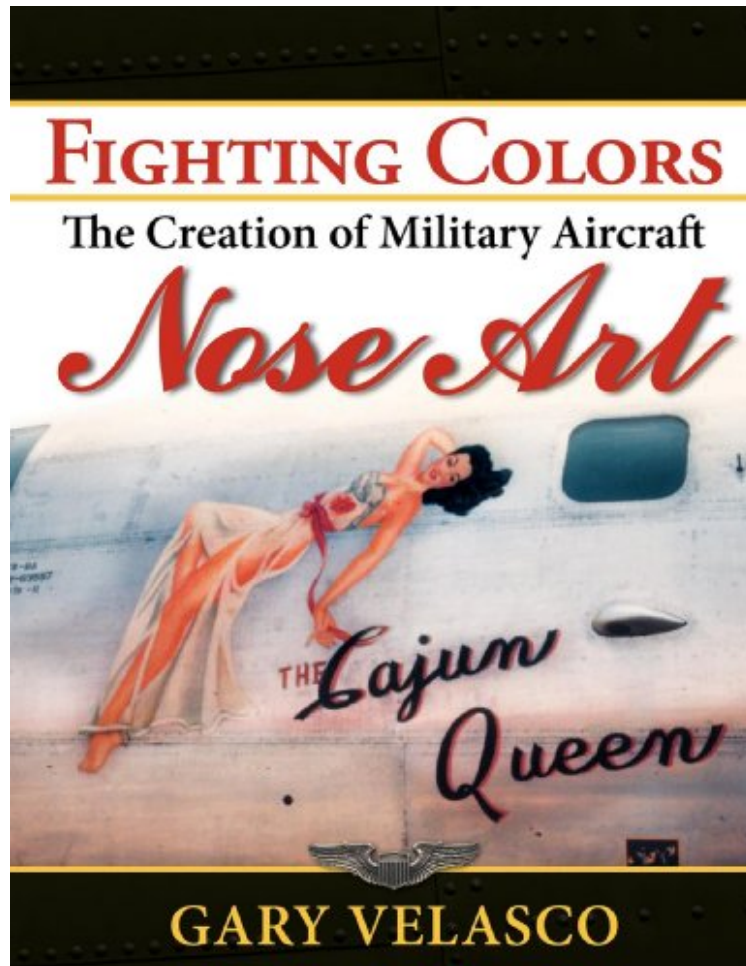
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Gary Velasco

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(Download free pdf) Fighting Colors: The Creation of Military Aircraft Nose Art

Fighting Colors: The Creation of Military Aircraft Nose Art

Gary Velasco : Fighting Colors: The Creation of Military Aircraft Nose Art before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fighting Colors: The Creation of Military Aircraft Nose Art:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. I truly wish I could like this book...By Gerald AsherI read all of the reviews before I purchased this softbound reprint - even the sole negative review. Still, I was inclined to give it the benefit of a doubt, and I ordered it anyway.I should have listened to my gut.I should probably preface this with the fact that I am a lifelong military aviation aficionado who spends an inordinate amount of time doing historical research in the midst of my work as an aviation artist - with either the tenacity of a junkyard dog, or just an overdose of OCD, take your pick. If you are a novice on the subject of military aircraft nose art, and you have absolutely nothing else in your library on the subject, this book may not be a bad starting point. But, for anything other than a beginner, it's a complete write-off.Where to start?Typos, beginning with the Contents page, where one segment is labeled "510th Fighter Group" (there was no such animal in the Army Air Forces), but properly labeled 510th Fighter Squadron (part of the 405th "Thunder Monsters" Fighter Group) on the actual pages.The reproductions are generally muddy.The paper is

cheap. There isn't really a logical layout to the format; there's a plethora of B-24 nose art (with a billboard-sized fuselage, it begs for some sprucing up), and a dearth of fighter noses. Additional information - like units of assignment, or assigned pilots - is haphazard at best. To add insult to injury, the final portions of the book are devoted to the author's own efforts at reproducing nose art on some of today's restored "warbirds" and museum display aircraft. All executed with workmanlike quality, but does it really have a place alongside "the real thing?" If you are a serious nose art enthusiast, take a "pass" on ordering this book. If, by some chance, it shows up under your Christmas tree from one of your kids, or Aunt Gertrude, smile sweetly, say "Thank You" - and take it to the local used book store for something you really can use.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A true tribute to the heroes of World War II

By Debbie Pfeiffer This book is a true tribute to the heroes of World War II and the artists who painted and now restore the "fighting colors" to preserve an important piece of history. If you are interested in nose art and/or have a link to WWII, you should also view the dvd, "Nose Art and Pin Ups: How Pin Ups and Paintings Raised the Morale of the Mighty Eighth in WWII". My Dad was in WWII, and although I'm not a huge history buff, this dvd really made it more alive for me. Using nose art as a common thread, several WWII veterans are interviewed and tell us about how, as young, scared flyers, the images on their planes helped provide them with courage and comfort as they went into combat.

17 of 18 people found the following review helpful. A book on colors - in black white?

By James Pernikoff The new paperback edition of this book is an outright abomination, and anyone who buys it (as I did) is a fool. The original hardcover edition had a fair amount of color, as any book on aircraft nose art should have. But here is what is said on the title page of this paperback edition: "NOTE ON COLOR: This book was originally printed in hardback with color. This version is black and white so references to color may not apply. To see color versions of nose art restoration, visit fightingcolors.com." And if that's not bad enough, the reproduction of the now black-and-white photos in this edition is terrible! And they dare to charge a color-book price for this piece of trash? And what's the shame is that Velasco's editorial content is excellent, but it's wasted here. I am returning my copy for credit. I urge anyone contemplating buying this paperback edition to turn the other way as quickly as possible, and try and hunt down a good copy of the original hardcover edition instead.

Since the early days of flight, military pilots have personalized aircraft with artistic creations, giving each plane a unique identity and aircrews a sense of pride in "their war bird." This comprehensive volume covers the technical aspect on how nose art was applied to vintage military aircraft, with hundreds of fighters and bombers pictured. The uses of materials, supplies, and development of nose art designs are discussed with surviving nose artists. The author examines and analyzes WWII-era photographs and reveals their content along with numerous photos never before published. Recreating step-by-step flying war bird nose art restorations is outlined for the first time. Fighting Colors is an enjoyable read for military personnel and a graphic tool for all enthusiasts of pinup and vintage aircraft nose art.