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Fantastic Collections: A Coloring Book Of Amazing Things Real And Imagined (Fantastic Cities)



Synopsis

In this newest coloring book by the author of the internationally bestselling *Fantastic Cities* (more than 400,000 copies in print), artist Steve McDonald uses his unique photo-based approach to create beautiful and intimately detailed line drawings of amazing collections of objects. Finding inspiration in the unusual (museum collections, antiques, and quirky toys) and the everyday (leaves, butterflies, vintage cameras, store product displays), McDonald creates playful and immersive illustrations that are as lovely as they are fun to color. The quality of the large, crisp white pages are conducive to a range of applications, while a middle margin keeps all the artwork fully colorable. A dozen meditative mandalas created from the drawings round out this gorgeous adult coloring book.

Book Information

Series: *Fantastic Cities*

Paperback: 60 pages

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Product Dimensions: 11.4 x 0.2 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #117,737 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Drawing > Coloring Books for Grown-Ups > Cities & Architecture](#) #96 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic Design > Commercial > Illustration](#) #2500 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies](#)

Customer Reviews

STEVE MCDONALD is the bestselling author of *Fantastic Cities* and *Fantastic Structures*. A Canadian artist and lifelong traveler, he has lived in Italy, Saudi Arabia, India, and Indonesia. He currently lives in Ontario, Canada.

I love collections of things and coloring them just adds to the pleasure.

I own both of Steve McDonald's first two coloring books and have enjoyed coloring in them. I immediately pre-ordered *Fantastic Collections* as soon as I saw it

was available. The groupings of collections are quite interesting. Some things, such as oil cans, toy horses, locks, and even typewriters are familiar to me. Others are definitely new, such as Japanese cleaning supplies and chainsaws. Most of the designs are presented straight-forward but a few are also interpreted into mandala style format and those become beautiful abstract designs that will be a lot of fun to color. This is what I found while coloring in this book and testing the paper with my coloring medium. I will provide a list of the coloring medium I used for tests and which I use for coloring as well. You will find the list in the comments section below.

58 Pages of Designs based on a wide variety of Collectibles

Printed on both sides of white heavyweight, smooth, non-perforated paper

Sewn Binding

Designs do not merge into binding area

Book can be opened to a flat position

Alcohol-based markers bleed through page. Using these will ruin the design on the back of the page.

Water-based markers, gel pens, and India ink artist pens do not bleed through or leave color shadows on back on page. Gel pens required additional drying time.

Coloring pencils work well with this paper. I used both oil and wax based pencils for good pigment, layering multiple colors and blending using a pencil style blending stick.

Steve McDonald has another great follow-on to his *Fantastic Cities: A Coloring Book of Amazing Places Real and Imagined* and *Fantastic Structures: A Coloring Book of Amazing Buildings Real and Imagined* with this selection of line drawings of collections of interesting objects. Much like his drawings of architectural scenes these too are full of detail yet adaptable to a wide range of coloring styles, from the abstract or fanciful to more realistic depictions.. It continues the same format *Fantastic Cities* - 60 slightly over-sized pages (not quite 12 inches square) on heavier weight paper for less chance of bleed-through from markers. (You will probably be OK with the double-sided pages unless you use a **lot** of layers of markers, or colored sharpies.) The drawings can be colored with colored pencils or broad pointed felt pens, and again, they lend themselves to adding any level of detail and texture one wants to drill down to. Feel like adding in the sparkles and stripes of the candy in jars, reflections in the wall of beer bottles, or a dimly-lit scene? *Fantastic Structures* go for it; the drawings invite your personal touch here. Or enjoy them as color-field designs and block in your color schemes. Some of them would do well with a Wayne Thiebaud touch - the candy, the rows of glasses, the toy ray guns. There are a few drawings with a lot of depth of field - the kitchen for example - but most are fairly flat compositions. Touches of whimsy appear in many - the cellphones include an old brick-type phone; a shelves of chain-saws (a surprisingly wonderful drawing).

Contents: Matryoshka Dolls, Seashells, Balinese Koi (photo attached), Candy Jars Mandala, Candy Jars, Lock Mandala, The Lock Collection of James A. Rees

(1913-2009)Camping GearLeavesJapanese Cleaning SuppliesSunglassesChainsaws (photo attached)ToolsArt Frames MandalaArt FramesCassette TapesGuitarsButterfliesButterflies MandalaToy Robots MandalaToy RobotsRoxana's Stuffed AnimalsAsha's ButtonsNatalia's Toy HorsesPlastic DinosaursAlexander's Toy CarsOil TinsMoroccan LampsChinese LanternsCamerasCameras MandalaCeramicsFruit MarketFishing TackleDragonfliesRay GunsRay Gun MandalaClocksClocks MandalaBookshelvesTelevisionsRemote Controller MandalaRemote ControllersAntique Glass BottlesNamina's JewelsBottle Collection MandalaBottle CollectionDollhouse KitchenKitchen UtensilsTypewriters MandalaTypewritersKeysMilitary MedalsTrumpetsMobile Phones (photo attached)Beauty SuppliesLuggageColored Pencils=====Need more Steve McDonald?Now Available:~ ~ Fantastic Cities 2017 Wall Calendar

I have Mr. McDonald's first two coloring books, Fantastic Cities and Fantastic Structures, so I had to pre-order this one as soon as I saw it was coming out. This time we have collections instead of buildings and cities, and what varied collections they are! I knew I had to have this book as soon as I saw the Russian nesting dolls. There are also butterflies, jars of candy, sunglasses, antique cameras, fishing lures, pencils, toiletries, koi fish and many more unique collections. There is also a good selection of his beautiful mandalas. Pages are printed on both sides, but the paper quality is very good, nice and bright white. And nothing goes to the binding, which makes a big difference to me. The size of the big is consistent with his prior books. While his other books were gorgeous, I'm glad to see his talents aren't just for structures or places. Apparently this man is talented no matter what he draws! Please keep them coming, Mr. McDonald!

I've used many coloring books before, but this one seems unique to me, a real stand-out. Fantastic Collections Coloring is a large all-ages coloring book with wonderful mosaics of ordinary and not so ordinary objects, set out in a variety of different ways. Some are like the lamps hanging in a story display, while others are a stack of suitcases, a jumble of colored pencils, a collection of toy ray-guns, or a drawer of cosmetics. I really love the great design and drawing throughout ~ thick outlines with thinner lines inside each object. And the lines aren't just coloring areas in random filigree; rather, they are real drawings of the objects, with just enough detail to portray it accurately and to make it really enjoyable to color. The beautiful drawing seems to encourage beautiful coloring, too, and I think that I'm doing some of my best work in this excellent coloring book.

Pleasantly surprised! When I ordered this book, I did not realize that the images were printed on both sides of the page, usually a huge disappointment for me as I typically use markers, but the high quality of paper prevented any bleeding, even when I tried. A few of the designs were not interesting to me, but I'm really looking forward to coloring the other 85-90% of the pages!

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