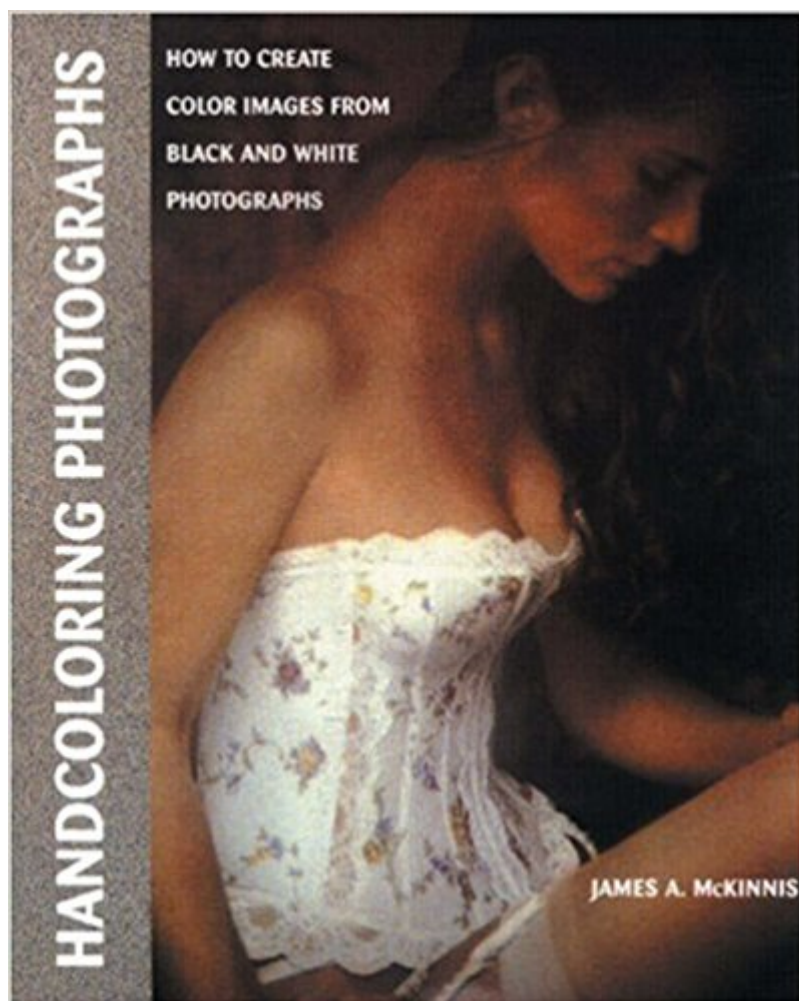


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# Handcoloring Photographs



## Synopsis

A guide to creating color images from black and white photographs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A guide to creating color images from black and white photographs.

I was very surprised to find this book! I was worried it would be a hard one to find. Not only was it extremely cheap, but I also benefited a group that helps people in Africa and Asia that are in need of vital items. I would probably try to always purchase from this company or one like it to help out. The book itself was very, very cheap (under a 1\$) and it wasn't in that bad of condition. No ripped pages, It was a paper back, so there was a little wear and tear on the edges ( but they had this listed as so).

"Handcoloring Photographs" concentrates on coloring with Marshall's Photo Oils combined with colored pencils. Author James McKinnis is a professional handcolorist with many commercial clients and uses primarily those materials. This book does not provide as much detailed instruction on how to apply color as some other books on the subject. It does, however, include some useful tips not found in other books. Unfortunately, there is no one book that contains all of the pertinent information on handcoloring. "Handcoloring Photographs" is divided into two parts: Part One

includes instructional chapters on "Basic Supplies and Procedures". Part Two, "A Gallery of Twenty Handcolorists' Work", is where the book really excels. The works of a wide variety of fine art handcolorists are featured with short essays about the artists' subject and techniques. These artists use a wider selection of media than are discussed in Part One, including photo retouching dyes, watercolors, pencils, gum-bichromate prints, Polaroid image transfers, and infrared film. There is some really spectacular work in this Gallery. It may be worth purchasing the book just for the ideas and inspiration in Part Two. If you are looking for instruction on handcoloring, these are the contents of Part One: The first chapter, "The Photographic Print", discusses photographic papers that are suitable for handcoloring. Specific fiber-based and resin-coated papers are recommended. The second chapter, "Materials and the Workplace", talks about photo oils, pencils, and materials for applying and removing color. There is a brief discussion of coloring with retouching dyes, but McKinnis admits to having little experience with the medium. The third chapter breaks "Basic Handcoloring Techniques" into three steps: The Wash, Detailing, and Fine-tuning. It takes us through these steps, using one photograph as an example. There is no information on mixing pigments in this chapter. The fourth chapter, "Ways to Approach Various Subjects" offers advice for coloring photographs of people, outdoor scenes, and still lifes. The section on people includes some specific suggestions for how to create correct skin tones, but oddly doesn't give advice on how exactly to mix the oils. The fifth chapter, "Special Handcoloring Techniques", discusses "minimal color" and "ultracolor" techniques. Minimal color involves reducing color intensity with Marshall's Extender, and Ultracolor employs Marshall's Extra-strong colored photo oils for a more opaque appearance. The sixth chapter, "Photographic Handpainting" addresses a topic that I have not seen covered in other handcoloring books. Although I often see the terms used interchangeably, author James McKinnis makes a clear distinction between "handcoloring" and "handpainting" a photograph. "Handcoloring" uses media that are to some degree transparent, so we see the photograph that has been tinted. McKinnis uses the term "handpainting" to mean that parts of the photograph "are obscured by opaque layers of paint", so that we cannot see the photograph underneath. McKinnis finds handpainting best suited to sports photographs and provides quite a few examples. He handpaints with photo oils, applied without rubbing, and artists' oils. In the Appendix, the author gives us his predictions for the future of handcoloring, which he believes has great commercial potential in the fields of portraiture, boudoir, fashion, photo restoration, advertising, and, of course, fine art photography. There is no list of suppliers. I don't think "Handcoloring Photographs" is the best handcoloring book for a beginner looking for step-by-step instruction, although it makes some valuable contributions in that area. The "Gallery of Twenty Handcolorists'

Work" exhibits some fantastic examples of handcoloring in a variety of media, however, and would be an inspiration to handcolorists of all levels and experience. The twenty artists featured really demonstrate this art form's potential.

This is a great book on handcoloring. The author gives good explanations of the process of handcoloring using mostly oils. He tells you what works for him and shows many photos of his work that will inspire you to want to create your own. Also included are the works of many other artists for one to enjoy the many different ways that people approach handcoloring. Very useful tips that I didn't find in other books and was glad to know. I think once one has the information the next step is to just try it and develop your own style.

As the owner of PAST TINTS, a photo tinting resource website, I enthusiastically recommend and endorse James McKinnis' book. It remains my favorite photo tinting guide and I have benefitted greatly from the hundreds of suggestions within. Whether you are a beginning hand colorist, or an expert, you will find lots of helpful, interesting information in "Handcoloring Photographs".

I'm usually very "kind" in my reviews, but when I received this book, I really felt like I had been "taken". This book, although it has a lot of "pretty pictures", has little, if any information on handcoloring photographs. If your objective is to learn this art, look elsewhere. I'm returning this book and buying the other book in this section.

good source of info!

I just took a class on using the very easy spotpen system. I purchased this book yesterday and am ready to try almost all of the author examples of different types of hand coloring. She explains everything so beautifully and the pictures in the book are great. I'm not a very artistic person but I think I can do what she explains in every lesson.

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