



The Art of Stone Painting: 30 Designs to Spark Your Creativity

F. Sehnaz Bac

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Transform ordinary stones into colorful works of art with this easy-to-follow guide. Popular stone artist F. Sehnaz Bac, a seasoned archaeologist who markets her painted *Sassi dell'Adriatico* (Stones of the Adriatic) on Etsy, presents step-by-step instructions for creating 30 fantastic designs. Full-color photographs accompany directions for painting themes that range from trees, flowers, and animals to mandalas, geometric patterns, holiday motifs, and more.

Starting with the basics — including finding and choosing stones as well as tools and materials — the guide offers a variety of techniques, including painting stones with colors or inks, painting on natural stone, and sealing the finished work. Projects range from simple to advanced and include suggestions for indoor and outdoor display, as well as instructions on how to style wearable objects such as pendants. A complete selection of templates provides motifs for every project as well as ample inspiration for developing your own designs.

"The instructions are clear and engaging, while the photos are lovely and inspiring. Rock painting has become a really fun family activity for us all." — Sharing Craft Ideas

"This is brilliant, fun, and truly inspirational! Highly recommend it." — splashesintobooks

The Art of Stone Painting: 30 Designs to Spark Your Creativity Details

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Terri says

This book is so good, I bought it for my art reference library. Excellent how to.

John Beckner says

Fantastic Rock Painting

This book takes beginners through everything you need to know from supplies to a wonderful diversity of rock painting concepts and practical application.

Elizabeth Grieve says

This book has some lovely designs, modern and simple, for those of all ages to copy. The text is a bit repetitive, as each design topic has the same instructions repeated over and over. It would have perhaps been better to have line drawings of the designs for novice crafters to trace over ... However it's a nice book with lots of ideas and great colourful designs.

Thanks to the publisher for the advance digital copy to review.

Shelli says

Let me say right at the outset that Turkish archaeologist and sometime artist F. Sehnaz Bac's painted little *Sassi dell'Adriatico* ("Stones of the Adriatic") are absolutely adorable: whimsical, detailed, colorful, and a great decorative accessory in any home or garden. The book starts out with an introduction that covers useful topics such as where to find suitable stones to paint, how to prepare them properly, the tools and materials necessary, and how to seal the finished products to protect them from wear and tear and even outside use. (There was however one piece of advice in the introduction that I found to be rather questionable: the instructions on how to drill holes in stones suggest a dry technique, but I have **never** seen anyone **not** recommend immersing both the rock and the drill bit in water or at least keeping them both wet, and I fear that not using water in this way will lead to drilling failures and a lot of broken stones.)

Unfortunately, the rest of the book's text is a completely useless repetition of the "Stone Painting Techniques" section in the introduction, and comprises the following steps:

- * Pick a rock that is the right shape.
- * Sketch your drawing on the prepared stone in pencil.
- * Paint in your major blocks of color and allow to dry.
- * Using a fine liner pen, add outlines and contour lines.
- * With extra-fine liners, add decorative details.

For every single stone "project" in the remainder of the book, a set of (usually) three photos and accompanying text serve as the instructions, but all the text does is repeat the same sentences, with precious little variation, substituting in the salient nouns applicable to the specific painting's subject. For instance, the owl project's text might read like this:

- * Select a roundish stone.
- * Sketch an owl in pencil.
- * Paint in his body, using bright colors for a stylish look.
- * Using your fine liner pen, outline each section.
- * Create decorative details, such as dots and triangles, using extra-fine liners.

whereas the text for the project for painting a branch with leaves might read as follows:

- * Choose a stone with a long oval shape.
- * Using a pencil, draw in your leaves.
- * Color in the leaves with your choice of paints and inks; for a stylish look, select bright colors.
- * With a fine liner pen, go over your pencil lines to emphasize the shape.
- * Add embellishments with your extra-fine liners, including small circles and shapes.

It is basically the *exact same set of instructions, copied over and over and over again*, with minor variations in wording (but frequently reminding us that bold colors will yield a "stylish look"). The photographs alone (a set of three or so per project, showing us the major steps of the process in each stone painting: sketching, painting, and detailing) are sufficient on their own to copy the author's artwork. Yes – you do need to be aware that all this book will teach you to do is to copy the paintings *nearly exactly*; there are no independent instructions on techniques in their own right, or on developing your own style and artistic voice (i.e., despite the subtitle, your creativity will not be particularly sparked). However, one can reasonably expect that with enough practice, the Zentangle-like detailing added in the last step will, over time, naturally become more personalized and unique to the individual artists creating them.

The shame of it all is that if all the useless, repetitive "instructions" were removed, there would be **twice** as much room in the same-sized volume to showcase Bac's great little *objets d'art*, with the three-step photographs alone providing just as much information – accessible to even the most inexperienced painter – on how to copy the designs. In the few cases where an individual project's instructions offer some specific piece of advice – such as what types of shapes are best filled in with a round brush vs. an angled brush – these could be generalized and put into an expanded introductory chapter, giving the reader more information up front on how to approach the painting overall.

Despite the half-book's worth of wasted repetition and the only goal being to copy extant designs with no personal technique or style development, I'm still going to give the book 2.5 stars. Bac's stone paintings are delightful and visually pleasing and the step-by-step instructional photographs themselves are quite good, so as long as you have the appropriate expectations going in, you will be able to replicate some very cute stone paintings!

I received an advance electronic copy of this book via NetGalley, courtesy of Dover Publications, in exchange for my honest feedback and review. All opinions expressed are my own.

Janis Hill says

I would like to thank Dover Publications for providing me with a free ARC of this book, via Netgalley, in exchange for an open and honest review.

I initially requested to review 'The Art of Stone Painting' for my two very artistic daughters to look over with me, but I soon fell in love with it myself and am now dying to have a go!

This proves it's a great book for young and old alike I guess! Plus it comes across as good for all skill levels as the initial projects are very basic and simple, and the further you progress into the book, the higher the skill level required. But, in all honesty, if you're a beginner like me and paced yourself and did each project as you go – one a week or longer – you could quite easily have the skill level required to do the trickier ones when you got to them! And if you are already experienced in this sort of art, you could easily pick and mix skills from throughout the book.

As I am a formatting and layout diva, here is my take on those – excellent! Clear, concise formatting, every picture and all the instructions are clearly marked and easy to follow. There is a great introduction into this type of art and includes the materials needed. So it truly is a great book for all ages from I'd say around the 8 to 10 year olds and up... But I am basing that on my own children who are very arty and love to read. All the same, the instructions are clear and easy to follow for children and adults alike. I, personally, would still do the project along with the child – one for them to make, one for me, as it's something I'd love, we'd both enjoy and would give us some creative time together.

Would I recommend this book to others?

Yes I would. The projects, instructions, clear images - all of it so simple and easy to use that it encourages people to give stone painting a go. Anyone interested in having some "me" time, or even parent and child craft time would really enjoy this book. So many things to try and so many ideas to share.

Would I buy this book for myself?

Yes I would, and it's in my Amazon wish list right now. Loved it, was inspired by it and can see it as a fantastic way to spend some crafty hours with my children in the coming years ahead.

In summary: An easy to follow, inspiring and highly creative book that will have everyone's inner artist wanting to try stone painting.

Kay Defreese says

After looking at this book I want to go out and find me some nice smooth stones to paint. Coloring books are currently the craze but the idea of painting stones pretty bright colors is appealing to me. Lots of great ideas in this book and simple instructions to get you started. I'm thinking about using some of the designs included in this book and maybe put a bible verse on the back.

Thanks to Netgalley and Dover books for providing me a digital copy of this book to review. This book will

release on January 18, 2017.

Elaine says

Want something different to have a go at? Then go take a look at this delightfully different book. There is plenty of guidance on materials and equipment as well as step by step instructions, often via illustrations and beautiful photographs. It is all well organised and presented in an enticing manner, encouraging readers to 'have a go' themselves. I'm loving it - lots of designs and things to try . . . straightforward instructions, easy to follow. It doesn't tell you to do so but I've had great fun trying out some of the ideas on paper but will be moving onto stones shortly! I think a hidden inspiration from it will be the desire to go for walks to find suitable stones, too :) It is the sort of book that all except the youngest can learn from and keep going back to time and time again, not one that will just sit on the shelf unused. This is a brilliant, fun and truly is inspirational! Highly recommend it.

Many thanks to the publishers who gifted me a copy of this book without any obligations. This is my honest review after having fun exploring some of the ideas in it!

Sharon says

Thank you to Netgalley and the Publishers for this copy.

The cover drew me to this book. How many times have you seen pebbles on the beach, all nice and clean, just waiting for someone to take them home and decorate them! I've never considered this to be honest, but now I've seen this book, it makes me want to take my bucket and go pebble hunting!

The book is lovely. It has some lovely pictures and designs, and has clear instructions as to how to decorate the pebbles. It gives good instructions as to what paints are best to use and the different size brushes. The designs are separated into different sections, such as botanical designs and sea themes. The fish designs I found particularly beautiful!! I'm no artist or painter, but the designs are so simply that even I could do them and make them look good!

Patty says

I love not only the superb colorful photos in this book but also the easy instructions for painting stones. I showed this book to some of my friends, and they are also very impressed with it. Even if you never had an interest in painting stones, I think you will after looking through The Art of Stone Painting. So, get your creative ideas flowing and get busy painting stones with this book as your guide and inspiration.
Patty Cyr, Arizona

Cheryle Fisher says

I read this as part of a challenge for our summer reading at my local library.

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"This is a gorgeous book and I found so much inspiration reading through it." — The Gingerbread House
Transform ordinary stones into colorful works of art with this easy-to-follow guide. Popular stone artist F. Sehnaz Bac, a seasoned archaeologist who markets her painted Sassi dell'Adriatico (Stones of the Adriatic) on Etsy, presents step-by-step instructions for creating 30 fantastic designs. Full-color photographs accompany directions for painting themes that range from trees, flowers, and animals to mandalas, geometric patterns, holiday motifs, and more.

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Mischenko says

The Art of Stone Painting is a very user friendly book with 30 different designs to paint. Very detailed information and pictures. One to keep on your craft shelf! 4****

Thanks to netgalley for providing a copy

Margaret says

I put for this book from Goodreads Firstreads because my New Year's Resolution was to do more crafts. (Well, I teach an exercise class, so...) When I won it I was excited because it is more likely that I was actually keep my resolution now! This book covers everything. (Things I didn't even know you needed to do!) Painting on stones is not as simple as picking up a rock, washing off the dirt and digging out some old paints and having at it. (Although you could do that!) This book covers everything from cleaning and prepping, to choosing designs and materials , and even how to use painted stones to make jewelry! There are chapters on how to paint birds, animals, trees etc.. I found a lot of designs I want to try! Painted stones would make great stocking stuffers for Christmas or gifts for other occasions! If you use small stones you can even make earrings! I'm starting tomorrow!

Rita McMahon says

Rock Painting

Excellent for technical preparation. Learned a lot and now I am enjoying the actual painting of the rocks: thank you.

Carol says

A friend gave this to me as a present and since I enjoy painting rocks I have enjoyed looking through this book and obtaining ideas as to what and how to paint rocks. I have copied some of the rocks in the book and they look fantastic so although the book hasn't helped my creativity much it has given me a sense of mastery of the painting.

Brenda says

Excellent book if you want ideas for decorating rocks. It is a good, inexpensive hobby.
