



Carving Gargoyles, Grotesques, and Other Creatures of Myth: History, Lore, and 12 Artistic Patterns

By Shawn Cipa

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Two complete projects, fascinating history and myth, and 26 additional full page patterns for creating functional and decorative gargoyles from wood. Learn to carve a traditional water-spouting gargoyle and classic grotesque with step-by-step instructions. Includes 10 additional patterns for mythical creatures incorporated into architectural elements, like a working doorknocker.

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Editorial Review

Review

About the Author: Shawn Cipa began carving wood in 1993. Already possessing a solid background in art, it wasn't long before woodcarving became a driving passion in his life. He began by carving wood spirits, and soon after tried his hand at Old Father Christmas. Although Cipa has carved many different subjects by commission, he admittedly prefers all things whimsical by nature. Walking sticks, canes, Santas, angels and other mythical characters are just some of Cipa's repertoire. Cipa was recognized as a national winner in Woodcraft Supply Corp.'s 2000 Santa carving contest. He is also the author of *Carving Folk Art Figures*, *Woodcarving the Nativity*, *Carving Fantasy & Legend Figures in Wood*, and has been featured in *Wood Spirits & Green Men*, by Lora S. Irish. Cipa has done several how-to articles for *Woodcarving Illustrated* magazine, and continues to provide more of the same. He does commission work from his website and provides pieces to many international collectors. He hopes to continue his carving endeavors with unending support from his friends and family, who have encouraged his efforts.

About the Book: Peering down from rooftops with expressions ranging from haunting to humorous, gargoyles have endured for centuries as an architectural element designed to divert rainwater or—as legend has it—to ward off evil and protect the cathedrals, churches and buildings upon which they were perched. Today, these legendary creatures are as popular as ever—especially as a form of artistic expression. If you've wanted to try your hand at carving a gargoyle—or a grotesque, chimera or guardian—this unique step-by-step tutorial from a renowned woodcarver will guide you from start to finish. After a fascinating introduction into the history, lore and actual differences between each icon, you will learn to carve a Traditional Water-Sprouting Gargoyle and Classic Grotesque. Once you master the two step-by-step projects, you'll discover ten additional original carving patterns, including the Crouching Imp and the Screaming Keystone Grotesque. You'll even find patterns for functional projects, like a gargoyle cane topper and a Green Man door knocker. Inside the book, you'll also discover: the symbolism of the gargoyles, grotesques and guardians; expert tips and instruction, including "Artist Approach" sidebars; secret finishing techniques for achieving an authentic aged-stone look; professional tips for securing and mounting your work; and gallery photos of ancient and modern gargoyles found around the world.

Firstly, I love your work! I just wanted to get in touch with you and offer a big THANK YOU for your book "Carving Gargoyles....". 2 days ago I completed my first project (The Classic Grotesque - the one on the front cover) and I could not be happier with the result. I even surprised myself. I've been a high school Industrial Arts teacher (woodwork, metal work, technical drawing etc) for 30 years but over that time, my skills have been channelled mostly into home renovation and other similar large scale projects. My wife has always had a fascination for gargoyles, dragons and other mythical creatures and then about 6 months ago on the British TV series "Grand Designs" my interest was sparked by a couple who built a Gothic style house, complete with hand carved wooden gargoyles and other creatures. It was just after this that I decided that if I could find a book or a website with some basic step-by-step instructions, I might actually be able to carve myself a wooden gargoyle. Onto Google and within minutes I discovered your book and immediately placed the order. As soon as it arrived a few weeks later I went out and bought myself a few basic chisels and a nice piece of "Chile Myrtle" and I got started. Fortunately, a teaching colleague noticed what I was up to, went to his office and returned with an old suitcase that belonged to his grandfather. It contained a beautiful set of about 25 hand-made carving chisels. They were old, and had not been used for many, many years but they were still razor sharp and a joy to use. I have made him an offer on the chisels but he is understandably reluctant to part with them. Your instructions were excellent and set out in such a way that by the time I got to the really hard parts (the head and hands), I had honed my skills on the relatively easy sections and was

therefore able to approach the challenging parts with confidence. Mind you, to save embarrassment if it didn't work, I kept saying to myself (and everyone who called by from time to time to see what I was up to), that I was really just "having a go" to see if I could do it, and I was quite prepared to abandon the whole project if it didn't work out. But all went well and now I think I am addicted. I gave the grotesque to my wife yesterday for a birthday present and she has already started looking through the book to pick the next project. Now that I know that this is a pastime I want to explore further, I am now on the lookout for a more complete set of tools and I think I'll make myself a carving bench like yours. So once again, thank you and best wishes.

Shawn Cipa has given us a wonderful and thorough introduction to my beloved gargoyles. The tutorials are clear and easy to follow. This is a must-have book for all gargoyle aficionados, not just for wood carvers.

In this book *Carving Gargoyles, Grotesques, and Other Creatures of Myth*, carvers will discover the history and lore surrounding the gargoyle and his cousins, the grotesque, guardian, chimera, greenman, imp - and learn to tell the difference between them all. Scores of color photos show where gargoyles can be found around the world. And for those wishing to make a creature of their own, master carver and author Shawn Cipa provides two complete step-by-step projects for a traditional water-spouting gargoyle and a classic grotesque. There are also 10 additional patterns for a crouching imp, a keystone, wall panel, even a cane topper and door knocker.

Shawn Cipa is the author of some fantastic woodcarving books and happily he has just added another to his series on mythological creatures with this look at gargoyles, the grotesque and guardians. Beginning with an in-depth history of these fascinating characters, Cipa explores their uses throughout the world, before moving on to two beautiful step-by-step projects for you to try your hand at a traditional water-spouting gargoyle and a classic grotesque figure taking inspiration from Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. There are patterns for a dragon-lion styled guardian, a green man door knocker, a grotesque corbel, a crouching imp, and an interesting intaglio lion medallion, among others. There is even a satirical take on a woodcarver as a gargoyle, before the book closes with techniques, and selecting timber and tools. The subject matter is indeed different to many carving books out there but this tome is well worth a look. I had a lot of fun pouring over the pages and feel inspired enough to have a go at one or two myself.

Carving Gargoyles offers a succinct summary of the history and lore of gargoyles and grotesques, while making clear the distinction between these two frequently confused categories of captivating creatures. With the inspiration offered by the many engaging photographs of gargoyles in this book, and by following Shawn Cipa's extremely lucid instructions, it is possible to create one's own mesmerizing monster.

From the Back Cover

Peering down from rooftops with their haunting, even humorous expressions, gargoyles have endured for centuries as architectural necessities directing rainwater away from age-old buildings, or as others speculate, warding off evil to protect the cathedrals, churches and homes where they were perched. Today, these mysterious beasts are a popular carving subject for anyone looking to add primitive ornamentation in and around their homes. If you've ever wanted to carve a gargoyle, grotesque, chimera or guardian, or just understand their differences, this unique step-by-step tutorial from renowned woodcarver, Shawn Cipa, will guide you from start to finish. In addition to being led through the entire carving and finishing process, you'll also discover fascinating legends and lore about each of these spirited creatures, where surviving gargoyles can be found around the world, and the facts and conjecture surrounding their purpose and meaning. After you master the skills to complete the Traditional Water-Spouting Gargoyle and Classic Grotesque projects, you'll find 10 additional original patterns for rowdy characters, like the Crouching Imp and the Screaming Keystone Grotesque. You'll even find patterns for functional projects, like a gargoyle cane-topper, and a

green man door knocker. What's Inside Carving Gargoyles in Wood: -The history, creation and symbolism of the gargoyle and his clan of delightful cousins -Two complete step-by-step projects each accompanied by the "Artist's Approach" in which author Shawn Cipa discusses important aspects of carving each piece - Unconventional finishing processes are revealed to achieve an authentic aged-stone appearance -Tips for securing and mounting your work -26 additional full page patterns for gargoyles, grotesques, chimeras, and more -Fascinating photos of ancient gargoyles found around the world

About the Author

Shawn Cipa is the author of Carving Gargoyles, Grotesques, and Other Creatures of Myth, Carving Fantasy & Legend Figures in Wood, Carving the Nativity, and Carving Folk Art Figures. Cipa was featured in Carving Wood Spirits and Green Men by Lora S. Irish. He earned national recognition for his carving in 2000 by taking first place in the Santa Carving Competition sponsored by Woodcraft Corporation. His work has been featured in Woodcarving Illustrated.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Connie Sims:

This Carving Gargoyles, Grotesques, and Other Creatures of Myth: History, Lore, and 12 Artistic Patterns book is simply not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book will be information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. That Carving Gargoyles, Grotesques, and Other Creatures of Myth: History, Lore, and 12 Artistic Patterns without we realize teach the one who reading it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't become worry Carving Gargoyles, Grotesques, and Other Creatures of Myth: History, Lore, and 12 Artistic Patterns can bring whenever you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even phone. This Carving Gargoyles, Grotesques, and Other Creatures of Myth: History, Lore, and 12 Artistic Patterns having fine arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Robbie Stamant:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with training books but if you want truly feel happy read one using theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. Often the Carving Gargoyles, Grotesques, and Other Creatures of Myth: History, Lore, and 12 Artistic Patterns is kind of reserve which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Christopher Watson:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always try and and must have the spare time or they will get large amount of stress from both daily life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not really a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer will probably unlimited right.

Then ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, the actual book you have read will be Carving Gargoyles, Grotesques, and Other Creatures of Myth: History, Lore, and 12 Artistic Patterns.

Stephanie Armstrong:

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got learners? We believe that that concern was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. And you also know that little person including reading or as looking at become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your own teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update in relation to something by book. Many kinds of books that can you choose to adopt be your object. One of them is Carving Gargoyles, Grotesques, and Other Creatures of Myth: History, Lore, and 12 Artistic Patterns.

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