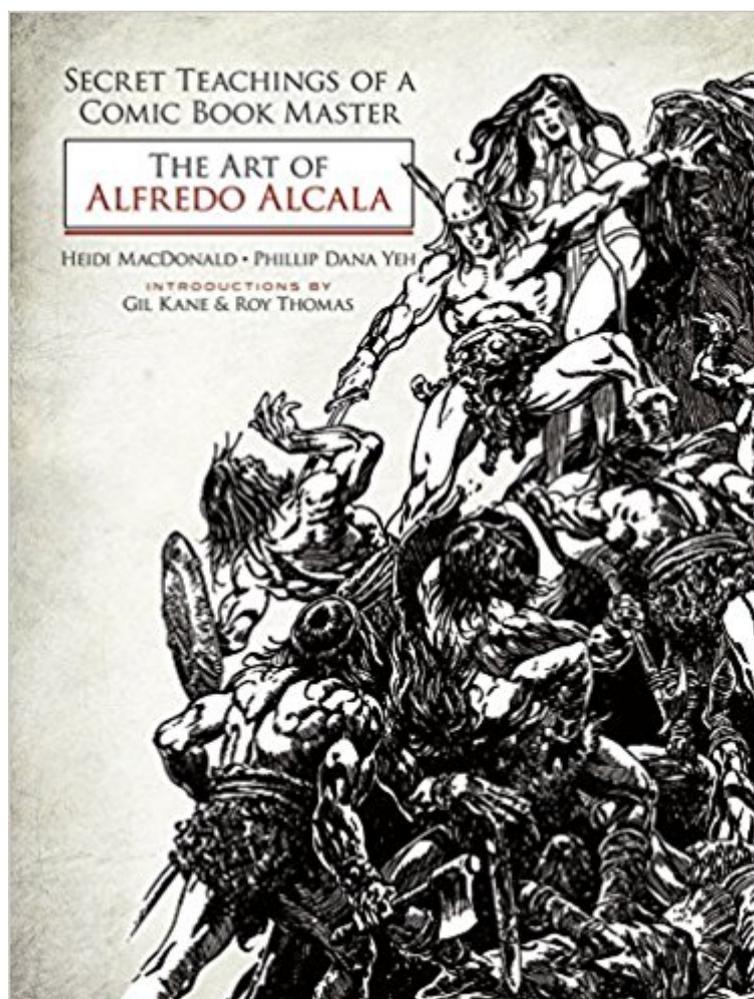


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Secret Teachings Of A Comic Book Master: The Art Of Alfredo Alcala



Synopsis

"Alfredo Alcala is one of the most disciplined and perceptive artists inking in comics. The years of distinguished work have earned Alfredo a special place in comics history." — Gil Kane. In the late 1960s, an extremely talented group of Filipino illustrators took the American comic book industry by storm — and the late Alfredo Alcala led the way, working for both Marvel and DC on such popular characters as Conan the Barbarian and Batman. This unique work is loaded with amazing art and pointers on observational methods, composition, and other techniques. In addition to insightful interviews with Alcala, the book features pages from his groundbreaking masterwork, *Voltar*, which was hailed as a new concept in comic book form, an epic in narrative art, and a milestone in sequential art illustration. Students, professionals, teachers, and fans will treasure this inspiring volume and its insider's look at comic book artistry. "A wonderful look at the thought process of one of the best artist/inkers in comic book history and should be read, not just by comic book fans, but by anyone who appreciates great art." — "Looking for a Good Book" "A wonderful look at the thought process of one of the best artist/inkers in comic book history and should be read, not just by comic book fans, but by anyone who appreciates great art." — Rushford Public Library

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Customer Reviews

This review originally published in www.lookingforagoodbook.com. Rated 4.5 of 5 I remember in the 1970's being eager each month for the latest issue of *The Savage Sword of Conan* to be on bookseller's shelf. The black and white art in this over-sized comic book typically was much more impressive than that in the smaller color comics, and a big part of the reason for that was because

of Alfredo Alcalá. And so, when I saw this book was available (again), I couldn't resist getting my hands on it. First...this is not a portfolio. This is not just drawing after drawing to ogle over, though there is plenty of art inside, it's not being reproduced on a frame-able quality. Second...this book is only eighty pages long and more than a quarter of it is taken up with introductions (by Gil Kane and Roy Thomas, at least). Third..."Secrets Teachings" is a bit of a misnomer - there really aren't any secrets here, but we do get some insight into Alcalá and his technique and his thought process as he develops a comic book. And this is what makes the book worth-while. Before his work on Conan, Alcalá created and illustrated a series called Voltar (a clear predecessor to Conan), and this book selects one issue of Voltar and Alcalá walks the reader through the entire issue, explaining his thought process to the layout of the page and for each panel and even why some things are light, some dark, etc. It was really fascinating to read how much thought goes into this from the artist's point of view. Because, when I think of Alcalá's work, I think of his incredibly detailed work, I would have liked to have more insight into his actual process of inking.

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