

## BOOK REVIEW

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### Review of: *Forensic Art and Illustration*

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**REFERENCE:** Taylor KT. *Forensic art and illustration*. CRC Press, Boca Raton, 2001, ISBN 0-8493-8118-5.

Summarizing years of acquired learning and experience, the author's stated goal of this book was to offer a comprehensive overview and practical guide for the police artist and practitioners in related fields. In the attempt to satisfy the goal, the book was divided into four parts that included a total of 18 chapters. Part I of the book explained the early history and foundation for technical and detailed facial art. Here, the structure of the human face was described in relevance to anatomy, orientation and expression. Part II covered a wide range of technical and human skills in identifying the living person. Here, in addition to composite imagery, reference photographs etc., the author presents valuable lessons about gathering the needed evidence. Part III is concerned with the identification of the dead. To be sure, this section demonstrates an ex-

traordinary talent in recognizing the person despite the changes that death and mayhem may have caused. However, with attenuated skills and perceptions, the reconstruction of the face can produce remarkable findings. Part IV addresses the issues of ethics, graphic reproduction, media and courtroom testimony. Here, the author makes the case for being a true expert rather than just simply a very good technician.

For anyone interested in forensic related art, facial reconstruction and identification, this book is a wealth of knowledge. In fact, the content and effect of the book may have surpassed the author's intended goals. Certainly, it is a major work that merits serious attention and consideration. Importantly, the language and style of writing is most conducive to a quick grasp of the intended meaning. Finally, noting that the author gave named recognition to other contributors, it speaks well that the book was written for the right reasons. Again, a bit high priced, but worth it.

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