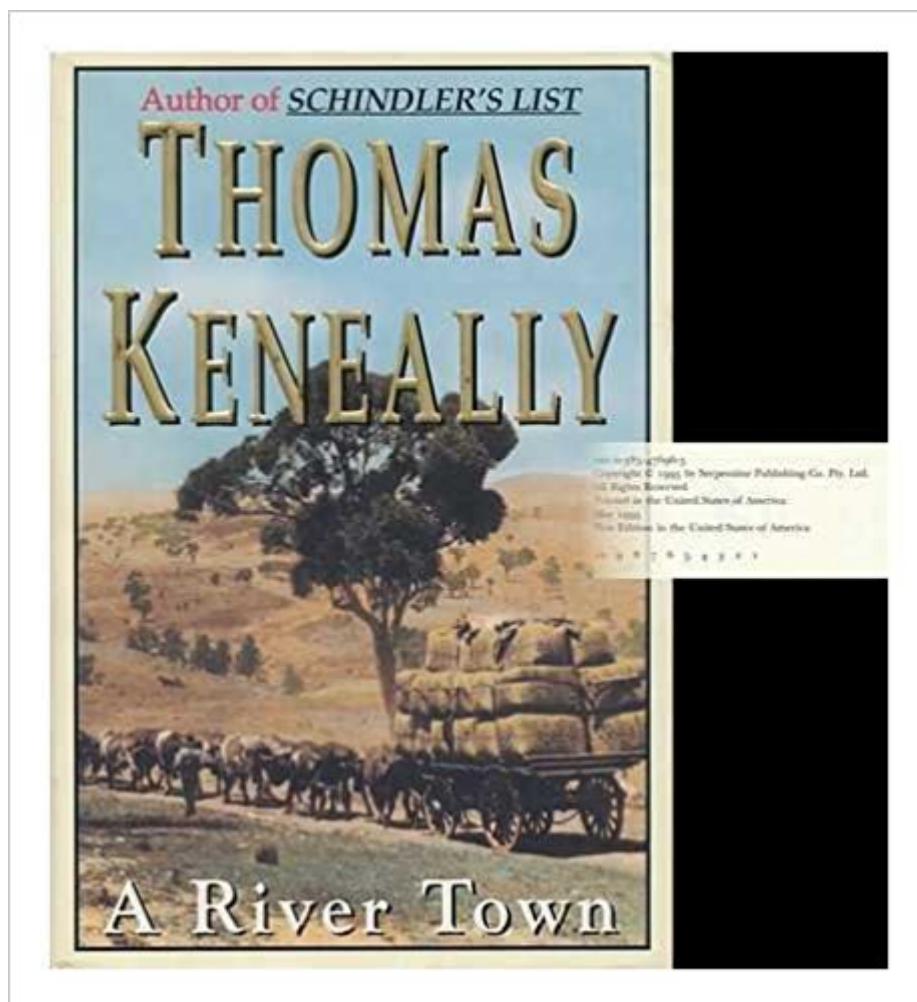


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# Air Powered



## Synopsis

With an historical survey of the technique, as used in advertising and photography. Includes: Alberto Vargas, Bob Zoell, Charles White III, Dave Willardson, Doug Johnson, Peter Lloyd, Peter Palombi, Roger Huyssen, Mick Haggerty, Taki Ono, others An airbrush is a small, air-operated tool that sprays various media including ink and dye, but most often paint by a process of nebulization. Spray guns developed from the airbrush and are still considered a type of airbrush. The first airbrush, depending on your definition, was patented in 1876 by Francis Edgar Stanley of Newton, Massachusetts. Stanley and his twin brother later invented a process for continuously coating photographic plates (Stanley Dry Plate Company) but are perhaps best known for their Stanley Steamer. Unfortunately no artistic images that used this 'paint distributor / atomiser' exist or are as yet known. The airbrush that was first given the name Air Brush, was developed by Abner Peeler and used a hand-operated compressor, and the inventor patented it "for the painting of watercolors and other artistic purposes". It was rather crude, being based on a number of spare parts in a jeweller's workshop such as old screwdrivers and welding torches. It took 4 years of further development before a truly practical device was developed. This was marketed by Liberty Walkup, who taught airbrush technique to American Impressionist master Wilson Irvine at the Air Brush School in Rockford, Illinois. The first certain 'atomising' type airbrush came along in 1893, presented by Thayer and Chandler art materials company at the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago, invented by Charles Burdick. This device looked like a pen and worked in a different manner to Peeler's device, being essentially the same as a modern airbrush. Aerograph, Burdick's original company, still makes and sells airbrushes in England.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 222 pages

Publisher: Random House; 1st edition (October 12, 1979)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 039450755X

ISBN-13: 978-0394507552

Product Dimensions: 12.2 x 10.8 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,485,722 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic Design > Airbrush](#) #518584 in [Books > Reference](#)

## Customer Reviews

I'm surprised there isn't a review of this great airbrush art book. Looking at the offers from Marketplace Sellers I see that copies can be picked up at a bargain price. Before Photoshop captured the digital art market retouching was done with a paint gun and during the sixties artists started to create images with the airbrush. Before this the equipment was really only used by art studio staff to create graduated shapes for all sorts of print media and retouch images. There were exceptions of course, Joseph Binder for Fortune Magazine covers, George Petty and his famous pin-ups, Otis Shepherd used the airbrush for his memorable poster art. Strangely one of the greatest artists, Arthur Radebaugh isn't mentioned in the extensive historical overview that kicks off the first ninety-four pages. The book's main section is a series of Portfolios showing airbrush art from the ten leading artists, they are all from the Seventies (Alberto Vargas is the exception). You could hardly look at printed popular culture in the Seventies and Eighties without seeing something done by the artists included in these pages. The rest of the book looks at other artists with a sample or two of their work then pages devoted to science fiction art, retouching, technical illustrations (with rather weak examples, I've seen some stunning cut-away art of machinery that should have been included) and finally four pages explaining airbrush techniques. Overall a very comprehensive look at American airbrush art up to about the late seventies, large size with 150 screen on art paper. If this slick graphic artform interests you check-out

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