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A Sky Longing for Memories: The Art of Makoto Shinkai

Makoto Shinkai

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#55598 in Books Vertical 2015-06-30 2015-06-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.18 x .56 x 10.14l, .0
#File Name: 1941220436176 pagesVertical | File size: 59.Mb

Makoto Shinkai : A Sky Longing for Memories: The Art of Makoto Shinkai before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Sky Longing for Memories: The Art of Makoto Shinkai:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy SamuelBeautiful backgrounds! But the book is a bit small and there is not enough details about the movies' production.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Carlos Alberto Salgado Chablgood28 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Exceptionally beautifulBy Parka[[VIDEOID:9ee6e5eadedac7c0396877baf2f88983]]This is one of the most beautiful animation background artbooks I've seen. I've actually reviewed the original Japanese edition ~ The sky of the longing for memories ~ which was published in 2008. Publisher Vertical Comics has provided a huge fan service by translating the book into English. It's certainly worth translating and more people should get to see this book.The only difference I noticed is the lack of dust jacket. Even the paper used is the low gloss type. Colours are reproduced wonderfully.A Sky Longing for Memories: The Art of Makoto Shinkai is the artbook that collects the background art for 5 Centimeters Per Second, The Place Promised in Our Early Days and Voices from a Distant Star.I've watched those three anime films many years ago and can't really remember what the stories were about. But one thing that I cannot forget is the beautiful background art in those films.The commentary provides talks about the design aspect of each scene and it's really insightful. Now that all the text has been translated to English, I can now understand the amount of work that goes behind each painting.Attention to details is amazing. You'll find out that all the background art are well researched and tediously put together. Some scenes are the results of several photo references used together, while some others are painted over photos while taking into account the colour scheme. There's research done on design of trains, vending machines, LED lights on signboards, routes of the trains so that they can be accurately portrayed in drawing. To draw Akari's homemade lunch, the staff actually cooked and packed the meal, then photographed it for use as reference. All those tiny words on fare charts, open pages of books are actually all hand drawn in. Environment scenes painted with photo reference take into account the seasons and colour of the air.There's something about Japanese anime art that makes them look so fine. The level of detail in the background really makes a huge difference

to the visual aesthetics. Every piece of art in this book is perfectly composed, and colour scheme carefully chosen. It's just awe-inspiring to see how many pieces of art there are to come out from the films. It's not all from Makoto Shinkai as there are other artists involved as well, many are interviewed at the back of the book. There's also a section that talks about how the scenes are created for animation. I highly recommend this book for its stunning art. (See more pictures of the book on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.)

A Sky Longing for Memories is a Makoto Shinkai fan's dream! Featuring art created by the beloved director, this full-color art book is packed with art from the many movies he directed for Studio CoMix Wave. The book is a 175 page LANDSCAPE FORMAT softcover, the majority of which are images, a rare treat in the realm of fanbooks. Inside you will find hundreds of backgrounds from his award-winning works: 5 Centimetres per Second, The Place Promised in Our Early Days, Voices of a Distant Star, and a TV advertisement for the Mainichi Newspaper. In addition to the backgrounds, there is a section about the software and technique behind CoMix Wave's animation, which discuss the key features of the software the studio has developed to use at various stages of production. The English edition also comes with a lengthy interview with Mr Shinkai and other key members of his studio.

About the Author Makoto Shinkai is a Japanese film director, animator, and writer. A native of the Nagano prefecture in Japan, he studied Japanese literature at Chuo University. He traces his passion for creation to the manga, anime, and novels he was exposed to while in middle school. Considered one of the best animators in the world today, he is often called the "next-Miyazaki". Shinkai developed his abilities as a video game designer for FalCom, where he worked on the cult-classic role-playing game Y"S. Shinkai is unique as an animator as he cut his teeth by producing almost all elements many of his works - from animation to music composition to voice acting. He has won numerous awards: 12th DoGA CG Animation Award; 1st New Tokyo International Animation Festival Grand Prize; 7th Kobe Animation Prize; 6th Japanese Media Art; Award for Digital Media; 34th Nebula Award (World Con); 59th Mainichi Films Animation Prize; 2007 Asia Pacific Film Award; and the Lancia Platinum Grand Prize (Italy). His film credits include: Voices of a Distant Star, The Place Promised in Our Early Days, 5 Centimeters Per Second, and Children who Chase Lost Voices from Deep Below