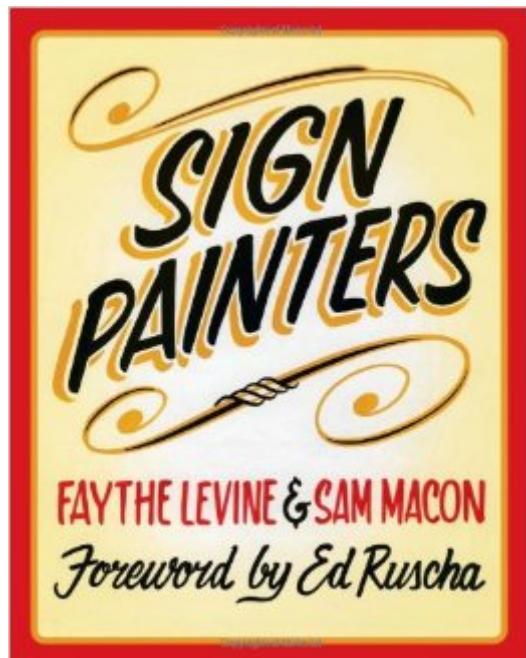


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# Sign Painters



## Synopsis

There was a time-as recently as the 1980s-when storefronts, murals, banners, barn signs, billboards, and even street signs were all hand-lettered with brush and paint. But, like many skilled trades, the sign industry has been overrun by the techno-fueled promise of quicker and cheaper. The resulting proliferation of computer-designed, die-cut vinyl lettering and inkjet printers has ushered a creeping sameness into our visual landscape. Fortunately, there is a growing trend to seek out traditional sign painters and a renaissance in the trade. In 2010 filmmakers Faythe Levine, coauthor of *Handmade Nation*, and Sam Macon began documenting these dedicated practitioners, their time-honored methods, and their appreciation for quality and craftsmanship. *Sign Painters*, the first anecdotal history of the craft, features stories and photographs of more than two dozen sign painters working in cities throughout the United States.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book will make you want to drop everything and just go paint signs for the rest of your life.

Very Insightful. If you ever wanted to paint signs or had an interest in Typography, it is a calling. Nobody really plans on it, its something you are just drawn to. I enjoyed reading about how the different painters they interviewed got involved in sign painting. So theres some stories and a lot of cool pics. As far as books on this subject go, i thought this one felt authentic and its a cross section of people and their passion for sign painting, and lettering. Its a dying art and its cool to see there are people out there trying to keep it alive and part of true Americana culture.

The authors of this book should be commended for bringing to light a profession that, I for one, had never stopped to consider. Each chapter presents an oral history of a specific painter with beautifully reproduced examples of their work. This was a fascinating read from beginning to end and has caused me to view the city around me through a much more appreciative lens. Even though the industry as a whole has been in decline for a number of years, some of the artists in this book indicate that a renewed focus on hand-drawn sign painting has been slowly occurring. Let's hope they're right. Highly recommended.

This book is an incredible "blast from the past" for us experienced old school sign painters. The book posits the notion sign painting is enjoying a renaissance after nearly three decades of computer driven cookie cutter signs being made by people without traditional design skills or talents. I'm slowly seeing this happening in my market area and couldn't be more happy. Excellent read with very high quality images.

Love, love, love this book. My entire life I have been fascinated with hand lettered/painted signs (calligraphy, sign painting, pinstriping, etc.) The more I got into graphic design, illustration, photography the more I appreciated this art form and how it is slowing going the way of the dinosaur. These artists created some amazing designs with minimal tools in their kits. No computers or fonts just their years of experience and loads of creativity. It is always nice to see an old building with some hand painted signage on the bricks outside. The book does a wonderful job of showing examples of their work along with a few stories along the way. One thing I would have liked to have seen however is more acknowledgement and interviews with some of the veterans of the craft (think Mike Stevens)

A good book to accommodate a good movie. As a sign-painter that was formally trained in the 80's, then as an instructor for 16 years, it's great to see a resurgence of hand painted signs and hand lettering. After meeting Faythe and Sam while filming the movie I was super excited that these two, novices to the trade, would pick an interesting and almost dying art. The 2 negatives is I feel there are 1) many, MANY veteran sign painters that paved the way since the 50's, 60's and 70's that didn't even get acknowledgment as those guys were the ones that should have been interviewed or recognized. No mention of Mike Stevens? Not the ones that do it as a 'hobby' that just picked up a brush a year ago and are self taught. The great old times were left (out aside from a few.,, Keith,

RIP).. The 2nd is there are SO MANY bad examples on 'professional' lettering and sign work throughout that I'm afraid people will try to copy. Bad spacing, bad layout, wrong shading, wrong lettering. ( the cover alone has a few mistakes). I'm glad there is a book to show modern interest, I just wish a bit more research and homework was done prior.

For those who cares for signage or lyricist this book is ideal. Many examples, many images. Anything can be used as a basis for your own ideas. Recommended

Needed some inspiration so I bought this book. I couldn't be happier with it. So much inspiration from so many different points of view. The perfect book for the new sign painter or just a great coffee table boom

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