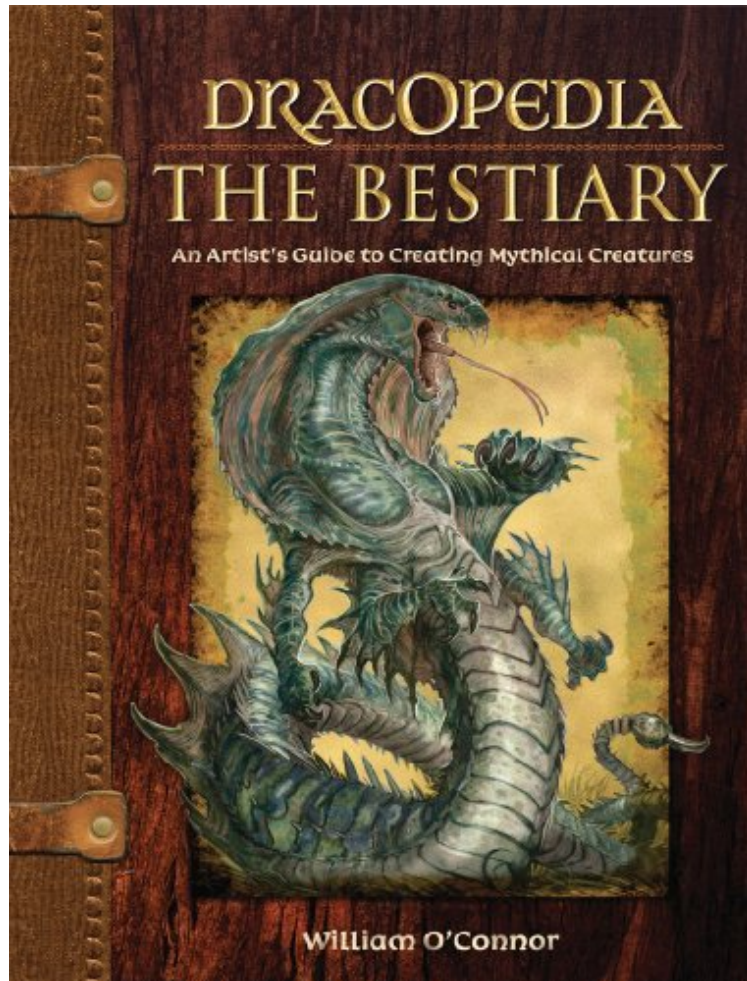


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# Dracopedia The Bestiary: An Artist's Guide to Creating Mythical Creatures

*William O'Connor*

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**William O'Connor : Dracopedia The Bestiary: An Artist's Guide to Creating Mythical Creatures** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dracopedia The Bestiary: An Artist's Guide to Creating Mythical Creatures:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Great Timing, Great DeliveryBy NyxxI love this book. With it, I now have three out of the four available. Amazing art for study and inspirational viewing, including the lore, and to top it off it comes in a hardback cover! \*swoon\*It's got a wonderful variety of creatures, which you can expand nicely by picking up the other books as well, though nothing too obscure. I would recommend this book and its siblings to anyone interested in mythological creatures, especially those interested in drawing them.Thanks!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Rarest Beasts of MythologyBy GingerbreadforestThis book includes the Alphyn, Buraq, Chimera, Dragon Turtle, Enfield, Freybug, Griffin, Hippogriff, Imp, Jorogumo, Kraken, Leviathan, Manticore,

Naga, Owlurus, Pegasus, Questing Beast, Roc, Shedu, Tarasque, Unicorn, Vampire, Waterhorse, Xenobeast, Yeti and Zburator. Wow! This book is all about inspiration and gorgeous illustration. As stated in the title, this is "An Artist's Guide to Creating Mythical Creatures", and the author gives the reader an idea about how he goes about creating his images of some of the rarest of mythological creatures. This book is more about concept and design, and is not a step-by-step instruction manual of how to draw. For each creature depicted in the book the author begins by giving a brief history and description. The next phase is the rough skeletal sketch, followed by pencil details and finally painting and finishing. For every creature the artist does several beautiful sketches which include a profile design and often an aerial view. It is hard to describe just how beautiful the drawings in this book are. The author's interpretations for some of these beasts are entirely original. You may have heard of some of these creatures, may have seen them on heraldry, but the demonstration drawings of the Alphy (dragon, wolf, lion) and Enfield (raptor, fox) will bring these hybrids to life in your imagination. Some other favorites are the fantastic amphibious Waterhorse, the winged lion Shedu and the legendary Questing Beast. Any lover of fantasy art should be very happy to include this book in their collection. (There is also a fold out poster with all the creatures included in the back of the book.)

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Deightful and Inspiring! By Laurie E. Thompson I just love this book! I look for inspiration when I'm trying to draw new creatures from folklore. It's great to see how other people have tackled the problem of making a myth look real based on the real life creatures found in nature. I also found it very useful that examples of projects in various stages of completion were shown. The hardest thing is starting with a blank piece of paper and not having ANY idea of how to start. I highly recommend this book to anyone wishing to create believable mythological beasts.

Unleash the Beasts! For millennia historians, artists and scientists have chronicled their ideas and discoveries of mythological and magical monsters in encyclopedias known as bestiaries. From Asia to America, Japan to the jungles of South Africa, the vast menagerie of exotic and legendary creatures has populated the imaginations of all cultures for centuries. Beautifully illustrated and fantastically detailed, *Dracopedia: The Bestiary* is a modern, but no less unsettling reimagining of the ancient version. It is an A-to-Z artist's guide to animals of the legendary world. Some, like the griffin and yeti, may be familiar to you. Others--like the enigmatic questing beast and ferocious manticores--may seem new and strange. Some may even haunt your dreams. Inside the bestiary, you will find: Secrets of each animal's evolution--origins, habitat, anatomy, diet and more. Fantastic illustrations created using pencil sketches and digital coloring. Four-stage demonstrations taking you from concept and design to under-painting and finishing details. By drawing on the forms and features of more pedestrian animals, you'll learn how to give shape to the bizarre creatures that roam the depths of your imagination, adding to the bestiary of the ages.

About the Author: Illustrator, concept artist, fine artist and teacher, William O'Connor graduated from Alfred University and also attended The School of Visual Arts and Parsons School of Design. He has freelanced for Harper Collins, Lucasfilm, Doubleday, Wizards of the Coast, Bookspan, Hasbro, History Channel and more. He's executed thousands of illustrations for gaming and publishing, as well as production designs, concepts, posters and advertisements. He has won over thirty awards and has been published in the showcase books *Spectrum 12* and *Spectrum 13: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art*. O'Connor is a member of the Graphic Artist's Guild, New York; Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists; American Showcase of Illustration; and Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. He resides in Pearl River, NY. Visit his website, [wocstudios.com](http://wocstudios.com), and blog, [williamoconnorstudios.blogspot.com](http://williamoconnorstudios.blogspot.com).