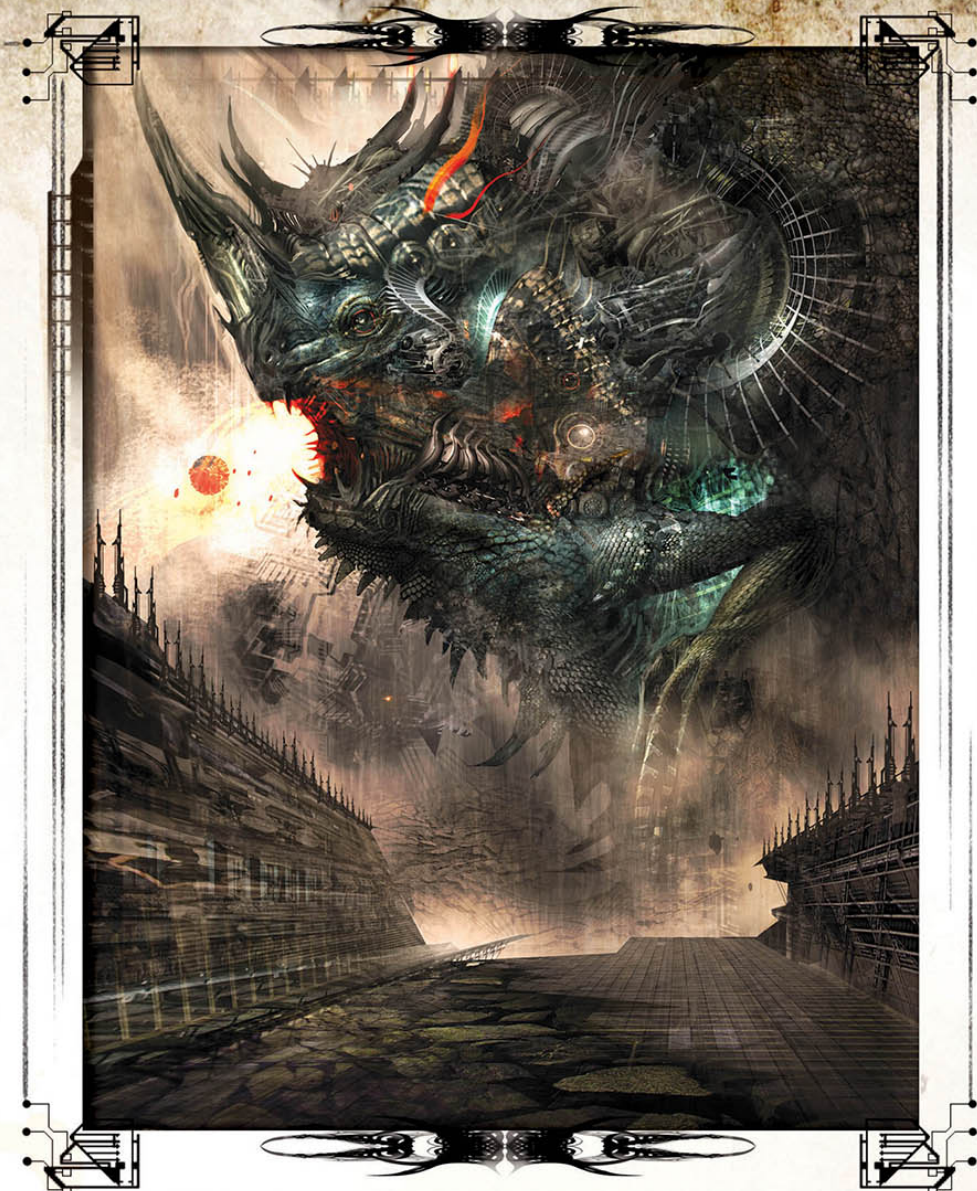


MIND OVER MACHINE



THE ART OF
ALEX RUIZ
FOREWORD BY ANDROID JONES





DEDICATION

For all of my fellow artists, dreamers, and biomechanoids,
wherever you may be....

Thank you to my family and friends, this book wouldn't
have been made without your support!

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FOREWORD

I HAVE FOLLOWED THE EVOLUTION AND PROGRESSION OF ALEX'S WORK OVER THE SPAN OF MANY YEARS, FROM THE EARLY DAYS OF CONCEPTART.ORG, TO THE PAGES OF THIS VERY BOOK. WATCHING THE PROGRESSION OF THIS YOUNG MAN'S WORK HAS SERVED TO REMIND ME THAT WHEN WE ZOOM OUT FROM OUR INDIVIDUAL PERSPECTIVES A LARGER NARRATIVE BEGINS TO EMERGE. IT MAY BE TEMPTING AS AN ARTIST TO CLAIM OWNERSHIP OVER ONE'S CREATIVITY; HOWEVER, CREATIVITY IS AN ENDLESS CURRENT, AN ETERNAL ENERGY THAT MOVES THROUGH US ALL..... AND THE MORE WE GET OUT OF OUR OWN WAY THE MORE WE WILL LEARN TO RECEIVE AND REFLECT THE CORE.

IN THE END, THERE IS ONLY ONE SOURCE THAT WE ARE ALL DRAWING UPON. ALEX AND I ARE BOTH PART OF A MUCH LARGER FRACTAL OF CONSCIOUSNESS THAT HAS CHOSEN THIS MOMENT TO AWAKEN AND SHARE ITSELF WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD. MAY THIS PUBLISHED BOOK SPIRAL OUT INTO THE ARM OF THE INFINITE FRACTAL AND CONTINUE TO INSPIRE NEW ARTISTS IN ITS WAKE.

SINCERELY,

ANDROID JONES



INTRODUCTION

TEN YEARS AGO I WASN'T SURE WHAT I WANTED TO DO WITH MY LIFE.

I'D BEEN WORKING AS A TRADITIONAL ANIMATOR ON A HIT TELEVISION SHOW FOR MANY YEARS, AND BELIEVE ME, I WAS EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO BE DRAWING FOR A LIVING! BUT THE CREATIVE PASSION I'D ONCE HAD WAS LONG GONE, AND THE QUESTION, 'WHAT THE HELL DO I DO NOW?', WAS ON A CONSTANT LOOP IN MY HEAD.

THE ONE THING I KNEW FOR SURE WAS THAT I WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE AN ARTIST, NO MATTER WHAT. THERE WAS JUST ONE PROBLEM: I HAD NO OTHER SKILLS! I COULDN'T PAINT OR SCULPT, HAD NO CONNECTIONS OR GUIDANCE, AND DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO START.

THEN, TWO THINGS HAPPENED THAT CHANGED MY LIFE FOREVER.

ONE EVENING I WAS WATCHING THE 'BEHIND THE SCENES' FOR A FILM I WAS UTTERLY OBSESSED WITH AT THE TIME: 'THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING.' I SAW MANY ARTISTS CREATING SOMETHING CALLED 'CONCEPT ART' FOR THE FILM. IT WAS A REVELATION, RIGHT THEN AND THERE, PLAIN AS DAY. I WANTED TO DO THAT.... I NEEDED TO DO THAT!

MY NEXT EUREKA MOMENT WAS WHEN I RESEARCHING THIS THING CALLED 'CONCEPT ART'. I CAME ACROSS ARTISTS WHO WERE CREATING STUNNING IMAGES ON THE COMPUTER! 'WHAT??, ART ON THE COMPUTER??!' I THOUGHT. WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY, 'HOW IN THE HELL IS THERE ANY HOPE FOR ME!'

I EVENTUALLY CAME ACROSS THE DIGITAL ARTWORK OF ANDROID JONES. I HAD NO WORDS FOR THE ART, JUST EMOTIONS CAUSED BY AWE, JEALOUSY, AND MOST OF ALL, FEAR. THIS WAS THE KIND OF ART I NOW WANTED TO CREATE, BUT WAS SCARED I NEVER WOULD DO ANYTHING AS SPECTACULAR. A FEELING I STILL HAVE TODAY!

NEEDLESS TO SAY, I WAS DUMBFOUNDED, INSPIRED, HUMBLED, BUT MOSTLY INTIMIDATED.

SO THERE IT WAS, MY PATH LAID OUT BEFORE ME. IT SEEMED TREACHEROUS, BUT LIKE ALL UNEXPLORED WORLDS OF THE HEART AND MIND, THEY HAVE TO BE EXPLORED ALONE, UNTIL THEY'RE REALIZED ON THE CANVAS FOR OTHERS TO ENJOY.

FROM THAT POINT ON I DEDICATED ALL OF MY SPARE TIME TO EDUCATING MYSELF WITH BOOKS, INSTRUCTIONAL DVDS, ONLINE TUTORIALS, AND TAKING CLASSES ON DIGITAL PAINTING, DESIGN, AND ANATOMY.

IT WAS A STRUGGLE AT TIMES, AND STILL IS. BUT IT'S ALL WORTH IT! I ENCOURAGE ANY OF YOU READING THIS THAT YOU CAN CHANGE PATHS IN LIFE, RESTORE YOUR PASSION, AND CREATE THE REALITY YOU DESIRE. IT WILL TAKE TIME, BUT IF YOU CREATE EVERYDAY, LEARN EVERYDAY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY LOVE YOUR PASSION EVERY DAY, IT WILL HAPPEN!

IT'S BEEN ALMOST TEN YEARS SINCE I STARTED WALKING THIS NEW PATH. HERE IS SOME OF THE WORK I'VE CREATED ALONG THE WAY. I HOPE YOU ENJOY IT!



Alex Ruiz



'MY NEW FRIEND' 2008







'FUTURE HARBOR' 2012



'FAMILY PORTRAIT' 2010





"MARINE GIRLS" 2010









'THE QUEEN' 2011