
100 Years of AIRCRAFT NOSE ART

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22 January 2025

WORLD WAR I

28 July 1914 – 11 November 1918



“Air Battle”

Painting: World War I Air Battle - German Fokker monoplane attacking French Voisin III Bi-Plane bomber, 1915.
Artist: Charles H. Hubbell 1899-1971

“Remember Me?”

Painting: ‘Remember Me?’
Lt. Erwin Shaw’s Bristol F2.b and Lt. R. Friedrich "Fritz" Kempf’s Fokker Dr.1 triplane over the Somme on 9th July 1918.
Artist: Russell Smith.

“LO!”

Painting “LO!”.
Ernst Udet’s Fokker D VII scout, of the Flying Circus 1917.
Artist: Adam Tooby .. artwork for Eduard Scale Models

‘Triple Threat’

Painting: ‘Triple Threat’.
Three aircraft of the Red Baron’s Flying Circus
Artist: Russell Smith,

‘Flying Circus’

Photo: Contemporary colourised photograph of the Red Baron’s Flying Circus Albatros D.IIIs parked up at Roucourt, near Douai, France April 1917.

Der Walfisch

Photo: Der Walfisch (The Whale)
Roland C.II flown by Leutnant Richard Seibert and his observer/gunner Hauptmann Pflieger of the Bavarian Feldfliegerabteilung 5 on the Western Front in the autumn of 1916.

“Shark Bite”

Painting: “Shark Bite”
Nieuport 28 of Lt. Ralph O’Neill. 1918
Artist: Russell Smith

“Francesco Baracca”

Photo: Francesco Baracca and his SPAD XIII, October 1917
Francesco Baracca was one of Italy’s greatest aces who flew along side Alfredo Junior (Dino) Ferrari, the elder brother of one Enzo Ferrari.

INTERWAR YEARS

Bristol Bulldog

Drawing: Bristol Bulldog K-2227

From the collection of the Royal Air Force Museum.

Artist: Richard Wheatland



Europe's brighter markings

Italian Macchi M.5 "Mutt 2nd" 1919

Meridionali Ro.37 Lince (Lynx) 1934

French Potez 630 of GC 1/5 1936

Heinkel He 70 Blitz

Photo Heinkel He 70 Blitz, 1935

the first bomber operated by the Luftwaffe

Spanish Civil War (1936-1939)

Republican aircraft with Popeye

Nationalist aircraft with a gun touting Micky Mouse

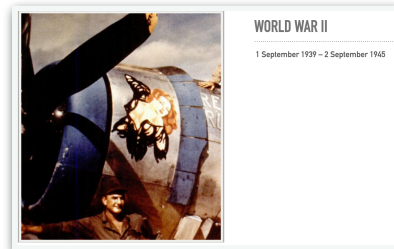
Heinkel He 70 Blitz flying for the Nationalists.

WORLD WAR II

Conquest of Poland

Painting: Messerschmitt Bf109 'Red 2' and Polish PLZ P-11, 1939

Artist: W Robel



Conquest of France

Photo: General Adolf Galland & his Mickey Mouse Messerschmitt Bf 109 E, 1940

Note: Galland actually first painted this famous symbol on his aircraft in 1937, when flying for the German Condor Legion during the Spanish Civil War

"Haifisch!"

Painting: Messerschmitt Bf110 "Haifisch!" (Shark Mouth)

Zerstörergeschwader 6.ZG 76 Heavy Fighter 'destroyer' Wing. M8+EP

1940 Nordfrankreich (Military Administration in Belgium and Northern France)

Artist: Adam Tooby 2010 for Airfix "box art"

'New Yorklin'

Photo: "New Yorklin" Flying Officer Richard Maxwell Milne DFC's Spitfire 1940

242 Squadron Boot Kicking Hitler 1940.

Photo Flt Lt Eric Ball, Sqn Ldr Douglas Bader and PO William McKnight examining

242 Sqn's boot kicking Hitler, painted on a squadron Hurricane, October 1940. (IWM)

Nose Artist: "L.A.C. Thomas Elgey a member of the ground crew.

F/Lt Neville Bowker, & Illustrated Weekly of India

Photo: F/Lt Neville Bowker for November 1941 'Illustrated Weekly of India' magazine.

Aircraft: USA Curtiss P-40 Tomahawk, 112 Sqn North Africa

"Flying Tigers"

Photo: Erik Shilling of the Flying Tigers with his Curtiss P-40, December 1941.

The American Air Forces comic, Issue #2, 1944

The American Air Forces comic, Issue #2, 1944

The Birth of the Flying Tigers

'First Over Germany'

Painting: "First Over Germany"

Artist: Ray Waddey

B-17 Flying Fortresses

"A Story of a Flying Fortress - Memphis Belle", 1944, directed by William Wyler

Film "A Story of a Flying Fortress - Memphis Belle", 1944

Directed by William Wyler

"Pin Up Artists"

- Alberto Vargas, 1896-1982

- Milton Caniff, 1907- 1988

- Gil Elvgren, 1914-1980

- George Brown Petty IV, 1894-1975

"The Big Swing" & "Agnes"

Lt. Charles E. Howard's B-25J Mitchell of 321st Bomb Group "Agnes" & "The Big Swing"

Gil Elvgren, 1914-1980

"Les hasards heureux de l'escarpolette" (The Swing), Jean-Honoré Fragonard 1767–1768

Original title: Les Hasards heureux de l'escarpolette (The Happy Accidents of the Swing)

81 x 64.2 cm held in the The Wallace Collection, London

"Mount N' Ride"

Nose Art: Mount N' Ride

Aircraft: B-17 Flying Fortress

Alberto Vargas, 1896-1982

Hollywood 1933 - 1941

Film Poster: 'Sin of Nora Moran' 1933

Film Poster: 'Moon Over Miami' 1941

Alberto Vargas, 1896-1982

"Sugar Blues"

Nose Artist: Sgt. Tommy Walton

Nose Art: "Sugar Blues" Varga Girl, from Esquire January 1945

Aircraft: RAF Lancaster Mk B.X

Alberto Vargas, 1896-1982

George Petty & Esquire Magazine

Painting: "He Got Married While I Was Out of Town, but We've Got That All Patched Up",

Esquire magazine, 1939

Artist: George Brown Petty IV, 1894-1975

Medium: Watercolor on paper

Size: 12.25 x 9.5 in. (31.1 x 24.1 cm.)

"Little Gem"

Nose Artist: *Ransall W. Sprenger, 20th Air Force*
Nose Art: *"Little Gem" Petty Girl February 1945*
Aircraft: *B-29 Superfortress*
George Brown Petty IV, 1894-1975

"Memphis Belle"

Nose Artist: *Cpl Tony Starcer*
Painting: *"Memphis Belle" Petty Girl 1943 from Esquire April 1941*
Aircraft: *B-17 Flying Fortress*
George Brown Petty IV, 1894-1975

"A Bit O' Lace"

Nose Artist: *Corporal Nick Fingelly,*
Nose Art: *'A Bit of Lace' 1944*
Aircraft: *B-17 Flying Fortress*
Milton Caniff, 1907- 1988

"Enola Gay"

Nose Artist: *Private Nelson Miller,*
Nose Art: *"Enola Gay" 6 August 1945*
Aircraft: *B-29 Superfortress*

"Fiery Ginger IV"

Nose Art: *"Fiery Ginger" March 1943*
Aircraft: *P-47 Thunderbolt (Razorback)*

"Short Fuse Sallee"

Nose Art: *"Short Fuse Sallee"*
Aircraft: *P-51D-5NA (Mustang), July-October 1944*

"Marge" 1944

Nose Art: *"Marge" January 1944*
Aircraft: *P-38 Lightning*

Flying Zodiacs

Nose Artist: *Corporal Phil Brinkman*
Nose Art: *12 signs of the zodiac, except Taurus! April 1944*
Aircraft: *B-24 Liberators*

62nd Fighter Squadron

Painting: *62nd Fighter Squadron emblem of a boxing bulldog 1943*
Artist: *Walt Disney 1901-1966*

"Chow Hound"

Nose Art: *"Chow Hound" & Pluto riding a bomb. 1944*
Aircraft: *B17 Flying Fortress*
Artist: *Walt Disney 1901-1966*

KOREA & VIETNAM

The Korean War (25 June 1950 – 27 July 1953)

Nose Art: "The Huff" (Dragon),

Nose Art: "El Diablo" (Little Devil)

Nose Art: "Wham Bam!" (Bugs Bunny)

Nose Art: "Darling Dottie"

Aircraft: North American F-86 Sabre



The Vietnam War (1 November 1955– 30 April 1975)

Nose Art: "Chicken Man"

Nose Art: "Love Generation"

Nose Art: "Goofy"

Nose Art: "Snoopy"

Aircraft: HU-1 Helicopter

FALKLANDS & THE GULF WAR

Falklands War (2 April 1982 - 14 June 1982)

Sea King, '50' & '55', 824 NAS, Falklands 1982

Desert Storm (17 January 1991 - 28 February 1991)

Tornado GR1 16 Sqn RAF Tabuk, Saudi Arabia 1990

Nose Art: "Foxy Killer"



TODAY

The Yellow Rose

Aircraft:

- B-25J Mitchell 1943

- F-111 Aardvark 1993

NATO Tiger Meet

2024 'NATO Tiger Meet'

Aircraft:

- NATO Typhoons

- RAF 230 Squadron Puma helicopter

Typhoon over Libya

March 2024

Aircraft: RAF XI Squadron Typhoon

