

Ken Foster's Vancouver

Life, Art and Alleyways
Story by Sean Nosek
Art by Ken Foster

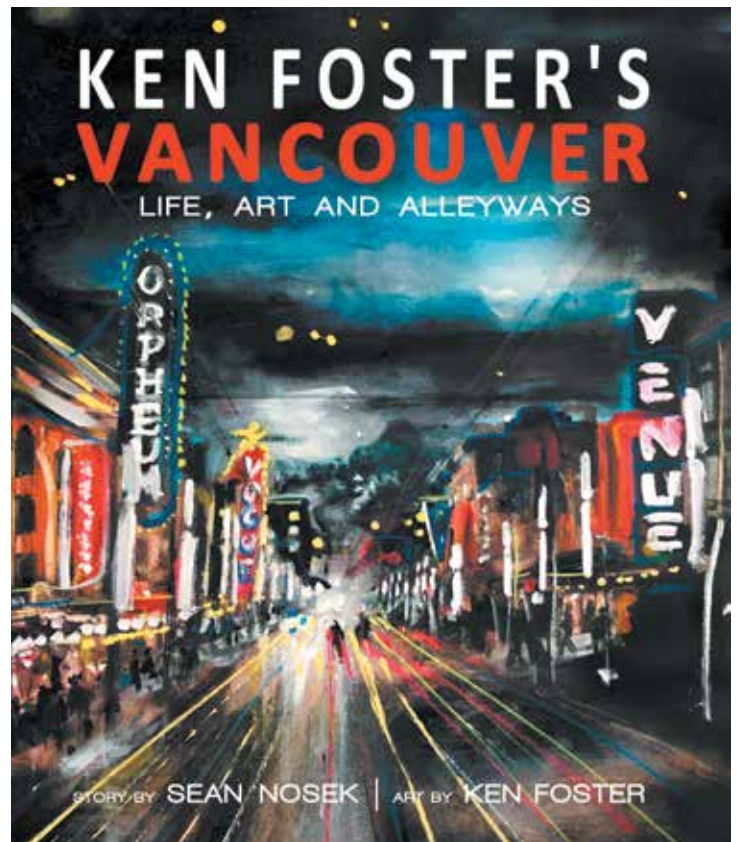
Ken Foster's Vancouver: Life, Art and Alleyways is a collaboration project like no other. Set on the edge of the infamous Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, the story takes the reader deep into the heart of a world battered by poverty, addiction and homelessness to discover perhaps the most prolific and exciting artist the country has known. Ken Foster's life is as remarkable as it is heart-wrenching, and author Sean Nosek gives the reader inside access to it all. The crown jewel, of course, is the collection of Foster's art, showing his evolution as an artist and many never-before-seen pieces.

Ken Foster is a Vancouver artist who has spent more than two decades hocking his art on the street to survive. Best known for producing work on found material, Foster is something of a local legend. He is the star of the documentary film, *Ken Foster*, by John Laner. He once called an alleyway home; today, his alleyway paintings are considered "iconic" by his followers. Formally trained, Ken's work can be seen in a Rolling Stones' music video, a Jackie Chan movie, and in shops and condos around the city and the world. His work retains an edgy, anti-establishment aesthetic, while simultaneously capturing the beauty of his surroundings.

Sean Nosek has spent decades mastering the art of wandering. He has a particular affinity for back alleys, book stores, and vintage shops. A former literature teacher, he is currently assistant superintendent of a Metro Vancouver area school district. Sean is inspired by great works and great ideas, and believes wholeheartedly in "the creative life." His blog, *Zen for a Crazy World*, has received international acclaim. Happily married and proud father of two daughters, he makes his home in Vancouver, Canada.

I like this book. I like the energetic paintings, I like the way the writer presents the artist's unique life story, and I admire the artist's determination to create. Wouldn't want to be him, but I appreciate this chance to visit the world of Ken Foster.

— Robert Amos
author of *EJ Hughes Paints Vancouver Island*



Art / Biography
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