

Not-Too-Scary Cheek Art

by Gretchen Fleener



Since there never seems to be a shortage of gory and scary face and body art on the web come Halloween, I thought it might be refreshing to share a few “cute” Halloween cheek art designs!

thrilled to get exactly what they wanted, no matter how much of the face or what part it covers. Isn't that the goal anyway?



Cheek art seems to be greatly misunderstood these days. Total beginners who volunteer to do face painting for their kid's school or church event seem to gravitate toward cheek art because they think that it's easier than full faces. Not true! Good cheek art requires a very steady hand, meticulous linework, and attention to detail.

I have always found it amusing that the same artists who talk down at those who do cheek art, really do many of the same things essentially... they just place them in a different area on the face. For example, paint the witch hat over the eye and add a few swirls or spider webs, and it becomes an “eye design.” Place it on the center of the forehead and flank it with similar embellishments, and it becomes a “mask” or full face design.



Many seasoned professionals, on the other hand, shy away from cheek art as they are under the impression that it is somehow less impressive to their clients than full faces. Also not true! They also may avoid cheek art because of the stigma it carries of being “something that amateurs do.” In the end, if your'e really good, you'll be really good at both.

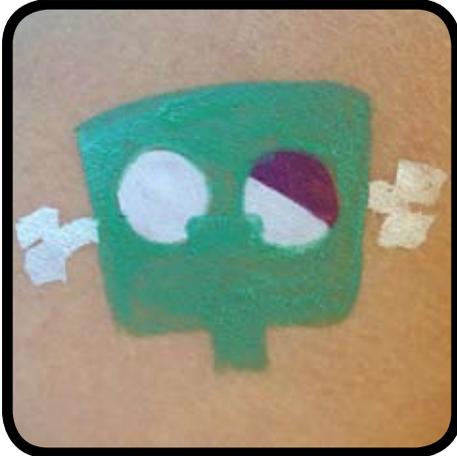
When I paint at a gig, more often than not I will offer a mix of cheek art, full faces, eye and mask designs. And every time there are people who specifically want less paint, and those who want more. If you can broaden your selection to give the people what they want, it's a win for everyone!

In reality, as far as speed goes, it's all about what you spend your time practicing. I can paint a very detailed princess cheek art, complete with detailed eyes, eyelashes, and lipstick, in the same amount of time another artist might paint a full face tiger or one stroke princess crown. But in the end, both of our little clients are equally as

Whether you think cheek art is only for amateurs or you think it's too difficult, don't discount cheek art! The skills you will hone while perfecting detailed cheek art can only make your masks and full faces that much better.



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