



BORN OF THE NIGHT, THEY LURK IN THE SHADOWS, GARGOYLES OF LIVING STONE, LOST SOULS WHO WANDER MIST-SHROUDED CEMETERIES, AND VAMPIRES WHO DWELL DEEP WITHIN FORBIDDEN CRYPTS. WELCOME TO THE DARK REALM OF MONOLITH GRAPHICS, WHERE A VERITABLE FEAST OF GOTHIC FANTASIES LIES IN WAIT TO QUENCH YOUR DARK DESIRES.



Originally established in 1991 by acclaimed fantasy artist Joseph Vargo as an outlet to publish posters and printwear of his own design, Monolith Graphics has grown throughout the years to offer a wide array of gothic merchandise including artwork, books, magazines, tarot cards, calendars, T-shirts and music cds. Vargo and his dark muse, graphic designer Christine Filipak have turned their gothic visions into a thriving business. "We didn't have a long-term 'master plan' in the beginning," Christine admits, "We simply wanted to create cool dark artwork. I brought my computer skills to the table and at first I did the graphic design and prep work for the calendars, posters and such. But as time went on, my duties expanded and I became a web designer, writer, and magazine publisher, in addition to creating my own artwork." Joseph Vargo adds "With Monolith, the creative possibilities are endless, and we're only limited by our own imaginations."

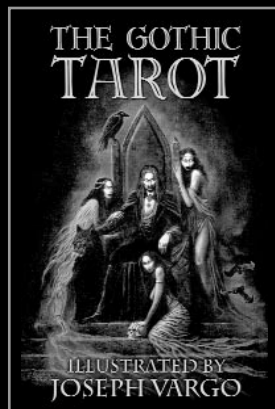
Vargo's images of gothic fantasy have graced the covers of several books, magazines and cds, and have been used for set design by broadcast companies such as NBC, Universal, 20th Century Fox, as well as being featured on A&E and The Discovery Channel.

The fine art book *Born of the Night: The Gothic Fantasy Art of Joseph Vargo* offers a visual feast of over 100 of Vargo's most

popular paintings as well as some of his previously unpublished illustrations in addition to background commentary on each piece.

In 2000, Vargo turned his artistic talents toward creating the book *Tales From The Dark Tower*, a collection of 13 sinister stories of vampires, ghosts, living gargoyles and dark angels. The next big project to come along was *The Gothic Tarot*, a complete deck of 78 cards, including individually illustrated Majors and Minors. It has since become the top-selling deck of its kind. Christine also utilized her Art Nouveau-inspired style to create *Madame Endora's Fortune Cards*, which offer a unique blend of themes including fantasy, Egyptian, Celtic and ancient mythology.

Monolith also strives to promote the talents of other emerging artists through their gothic periodical, *Dark Realms Magazine*. The magazine features the work of various goth-oriented writers, artists and musicians. Though some publishers may consider promoting other artists as a conflict of interest, Joseph Vargo shares the opposite view. "There's a lot of great talent out there and it's difficult to make a name for yourself in any of the artistic fields, so unfortunately, many deserving artists go unrecognized. When someone works hard at their chosen craft, I feel credit should be given where it's due."



# BORN OF THE NIGHT



## THE GOTHIC FANTASY ARTWORK OF JOSEPH VARGO



Vargo has spread his dark wings over the realm of gothic music as well. After conceiving, directing, producing and financing the breakthrough cds, *Born of the Night*, and *Realm of Shadows* for the local Cleveland band Midnight Syndicate, Vargo left the group to start his own band, Nox Arcana, to continue his original idea of creating gothic soundscapes. This time he teamed with fellow composer and musician William Piotrowski to create music that ranges from eerie and mystical melodies to haunting orchestrations, evoking the atmosphere of classic horror films.

"There were many limitations working with Midnight Syndicate," Vargo admits, "primarily because they didn't understand the gothic genre, however, with Nox Arcana, we can fully explore the gothic spectrum and take the music to new levels. Each of the seven Nox Arcana cds has a distinctly different flavor, while maintaining a full-blooded gothic aesthetic. We also utilize vocal narratives, chanting choirs, and a wide variety of instruments that help us create dark musical landscapes that vary from Dracula's castle and cathedral ruins to ancient Egyptian temples and Victorian cemeteries. The cd booklets are also filled with lots of original artwork to help set the mood."

Every Nox Arcana album is unique, visionary and exquisitely crafted, offering detailed storylines as well as great music. Their 2003 debut album, *Darklore Manor*, invites listeners to embark on a musical journey throughout a legendary haunted mansion with a dark and sinister history. Their second album, *Necronomicon*, is a spellbinding tribute to Lovecraft's Cthulhu mythos. *Winter's Knight* is a medieval ghost story set in an enchanted forest that surrounds the ruins of a haunted cathedral. *Transylvania*, inspired by Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, ventures into the mysterious and forbidden land of vampires, werewolves and witches. *Carnival of Lost Souls* dares listeners to step inside an old-fashioned carnival that harbors living nightmares and sinister secrets. Nox Arcana recently collaborated with occult writer Michelle Belanger, author of *The Psychic Vampire Codex*, to create the haunting cd, *Blood of Angels*, which draws upon the ancient myth of Watcher Angels who abandoned Heaven for a taste of mortal love. Michelle's seductive soprano voice and timeless lyrics create a wicked alchemy with the brooding and atmospheric orchestrations of Nox Arcana, telling stories of lost love and forbidden passions.

Vargo reveals "We've just finished *Blood of the Dragon*, an epic tale of swords and sorcery, and have already begun work on, *Shadow of the Raven*, a concept album based on the works of Edgar Allan Poe."

So what's on the horizon for the Monolith team? Vargo states "We have a lot of projects in the works, ranging from new books and music to computer games and film. With Monolith, whatever we can dream, we can make reality."



QUENCH YOUR DARK DESIRES...

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