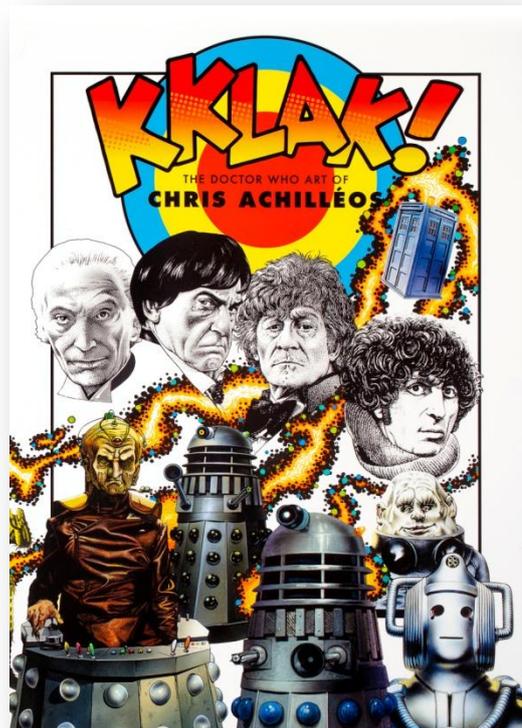




## **CHRIS ACHILLÉOS:** **DOCTOR WHO VISIONARY**

In his five decades as an illustrator, painter and conceptual artist, Chris Achilléos has four best-selling books of his art, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Sirens*, *Medusa and Amazona*. He worked with the likes of George Lucas, as well as producing the iconic promotional art for the cult film *Heavy Metal*. But it is probably his work for *Doctor Who* that is the most enduringly popular.

His covers for the official Target novelisations, which began in the early '70s, defined a generation's image of the Doctor and his adventures – particularly after the show disappeared from British screens in the late '80s.



Lavishly detailed, with psychedelic overtones and an unapologetically pulpy sensibility, these covers perfectly captured the eccentric appeal of the classic series. To this day, *Doctor Who* luminaries tip their hat to the influence of Achilléos' work. The opening of a 2016 exhibition of Target's cover artwork at the Cartoon Museum, London, attracted the series' then-showrunner Steven Moffat, as well as twelfth Doctor Peter Capaldi.

With the Doctor long back on our screens, and more popular than ever, it is perhaps surprising that Achilléos' Whovian oeuvre (or Whoevre, if you will) has never been collected in one place.

*Kklak!: The Doctor Who Art of Chris Achilléos*, an upcoming title from award-winning independent publisher Candy Jar Books, aims to address

this. For the first time, it collects the entirety of Achilléos' *Doctor Who* artwork in chronological order, along with commentary from Achilléos himself (as well as some fans) – presenting the definitive guide to his seminal work. The book also includes a small contribution from twelfth Doctor Peter Capaldi and a foreword from Achilléos' long-time friend and collaborator, the late Terrance Dicks.

Achilléos explains his motivations for compiling the book:

"I go to a lot of conventions, and the enduring affection of the fans for those Target novelisations is such a compliment. As an artist you're always wary of being pigeonholed – you want all your work to receive the same amount of attention! But *Doctor Who* is such a phenomenon, and the commitment of the fans so pure, you have to be grateful. I hope they enjoy this special book."

As the home of the *Lethbridge-Stewart* series, one of only a handful of fully licensed *Doctor Who* ranges outside of the BBC, Candy Jar was the natural home for Achilléos' new title. As Candy Jar's head of publishing, Shaun Russell, explains:

"The Target novels were a huge part of our childhood. And when it came to our own range of *Doctor Who* books, they were an inspiration. You could always tell that they were produced by people who cared. There was an attention to detail, and a level of quality, which quite frankly, went above and beyond what was necessary. *Doctor Who* will sell regardless, but as a series it means so much to people – and to us here at Candy Jar – that you want to do repay that. And from the first moment you picked up a Target title, with one Chris Achilléos' brilliant designs on the cover, you knew that you were in for something wonderful. His work manages to capture everything that makes *Doctor Who* special, and stand alone as works of art in their own right. When Chris first spoke with us, I jumped at the chance to work with him."

Featuring every one of Achilléos' *Doctor Who* designs, as well as never before seen material giving insight into his creative process, *Kklak: the Doctor Who Art of Chris Achilléos* is released in the late spring 2020 by Candy Jar Books [www.candyjarbooks.co.uk](http://www.candyjarbooks.co.uk)

The book will be available as paperback and deluxe hardback edition.