



**RAY VILLAFANE** is best known for being a world-famous "pumpkin artist." He is the two-time champion of Food Network's *Challenge Show "Outrageous Pumpkins,"* as well as a contestant on season one of the Food Network's *Halloween Wars*. A sculptor by day, he has been featured at comics shows for sculpting collectibles and action figures for DC Comics, Marvel, World of Warcraft, and more. See more at [villafanestudios.com](http://villafanestudios.com), home of the most "gourdeous" pumpkins on the planet!

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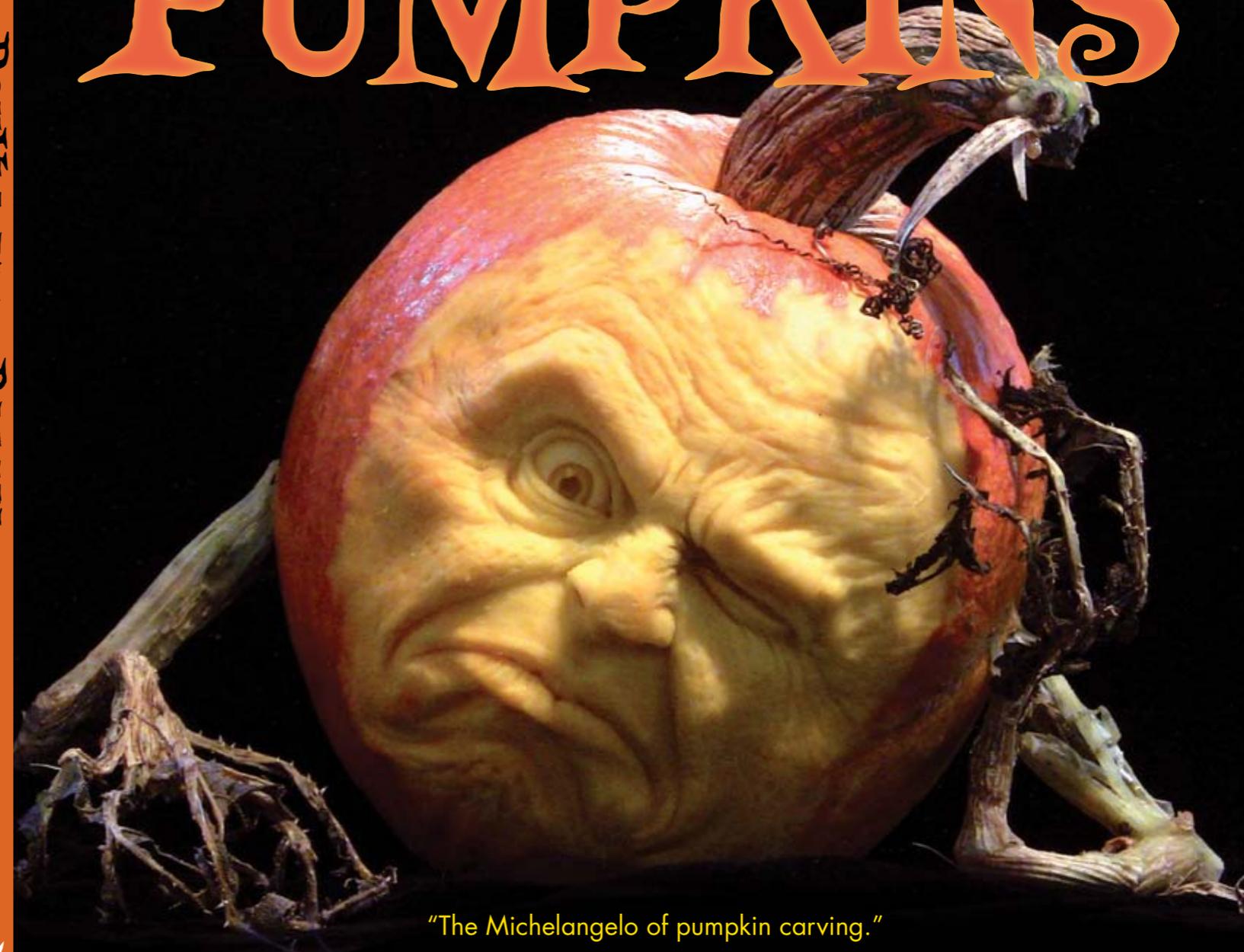
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RAY VILLAFANE'S PUMPKINS

GIBBS SMITH

# RAY VILLAFANE'S PUMPKINS



"The Michelangelo of pumpkin carving."

—Martha Stewart





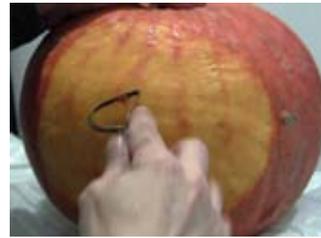


## HOW TO CARVE A PUMPKIN

Here is an abbreviated tutorial on how to block in a simple pumpkin face using strictly loop tools.

The majority of my carvings are done without the use of any sharp tools, such as a knife. I typically use a knife only to tighten up details and creases at the end. Utilizing loop tools allows you to execute various contours that would otherwise be very difficult to achieve.

When carving a pumpkin in a 3-D manner, be sure to choose a pumpkin that is heavy for its size. This higher relative weight indicates that it is likely thicker than other pumpkins of similar size. The thickness will allow you to dig in deep without breaking through the rind, which is important because the deeper you push, the more the nose and other features seem to pop out!



1. Using the wide, flat side of a large loop tool, scrape off the rind from the face of the pumpkin.



2. Using the pointed side of the loop tool, establish the brow line and parameters of the nose.



3. Remove material below the brow in order to define each eye socket. The bridge of the nose should also be taken down in order to create a "slope" that leads toward the tip of the nose. The area on the tip of the nose should be preserved and not carved away. This will ensure that the nose sticks out, thus creating a strong 3-D look. The eye-cavity sockets should gently taper to blend into the cheeks.



4. Using the point of your loop tool, create smile line creases that originate from the lower outer nasal area and extend out and down toward the lower portion of the pumpkin. Remove some of the pumpkin material in this area so that the area below the nose sits deeper, reinforcing a protruding nose. Also taper the pumpkin deeper as you approach the smile lines, essentially establishing a muzzle area that sits slightly recessed.

