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Alphonse Mucha: Masterworks



Synopsis

Though very much an individual and spiritual artist, Alfonse Mucha was a defining figure of the Art Nouveau era and is loved for his distinctive lush style and images of beautiful women in arabesque poses among the plethora of paintings, posters, advertisements and designs he produced. Admire a whole range of his work here in its full glory with succinct accompanying text.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Alphonse Mucha had undeniable influence on the Art Nouveau movement of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It's even been argued that his style defined that movement. I find that claim a bit much, but these graphic works still form a huge and very enjoyable collection. This collection features dozens if not hundreds of his graphic works. Although best known for his posters, and especially posters advertising Sarah Bernhardt's performances, he took on many other commercial jobs as well. Perhaps it seems incongruous to see Mucha's languid lovelies dedicating themselves to crackers, perfume, bicycles, or absinthe. Or, perhaps that sampling shows just how the Art Nouveau movement permeated popular culture, right down to their cookie jars. Even in these mundane tasks, however, Mucha conveyed some sense of fantasy and everlasting springtime. Despite the wide range of works presented here, I was disappointed that these "masterworks" include only graphic works. Mucha also created jewelry, wallpaper, theatrical sets, and even money! He was fiercely patriotic and, when Czechoslovakia won independence, he was commissioned to create its banknotes and postage stamps. Mucha's graphic work was brilliant and

remains familiar worldwide. This book does the man disservice by presenting only his graphic work, when he created so much else. The text describes Mucha's life and, I have to admit, I only skimmed it while soaking in the graphic work. That's where this book's real strength lies, however: in collecting some of the most beautiful specimens of this powerful artist's work.-- wiredweird

This is perhaps one of the most beautiful and most definitive sources of Czech Art Nouveau that you could ever wish for. The plates are all in pure, unbridled color and the information is rich. I consider to be a welcome addition to my architectural library.

Beautifully illustrated book with lots of information, but the author often makes it very difficult for the reader to follow her train of thought, having to flip back several pages to find the illustrations being written about. also the author repeats continuous information at different sections which gets monotonous

Also bought this for my artist granddaughter who is building a collection of art books. Mucha is one of my favorites so I looked though the books as well. I read the reviews and was concerned about the comments about the layout. The reviews were correct. Almost none of the reproductions are on the same pages as the text that describes them. Very frustrating. However, the layout is also dramatic and a pleasure to look at. The detail plates are particularly striking. The cover has raised portions and makes a wonderful tactile presentation on the coffee table or propped on a bookshelf. Because of the complaints, however, I decided to buy the Sarah Mucha book as well as it had more information, particularly about his late work. The 2 together give a more complete picture of the artist and his work.

For fans of Mucha, this book provides a lovely overview of his work -- mainly his posters and illustrative style. I didn't see much of his painterly work here--which is remarkable and not as well-known as one might hope--but that is not unusual, since he is most widely known for his promotional stuff. I gave this book as a gift so I did not read the text in its entirety, but I was pleased with it nonetheless and the recipient seemed delighted. It is weighty, dressy-looking, and would serve nicely as the proverbial coffee-table book.

I recently returned from visiting the Mucha Museum in Prague and wanted a book that had a good representation of his work. this book is an excellent one and with the work shown in color. I Admit to

being a bit disappointed that none of his oil paintings were included. They were a part of his work I had never been exposed to until I visited Prague. This book not only gives you a timeline of his work but shows excellent examples of it. The book itself is beautiful. Printed on heavy paper with crisp prints in full color.

This book is beautiful. I had no idea when I bought it, but the cover actually has some sparkly embellishments on it. Makes for a beautiful coffee book table or looks great on the shelf! I'm an art student and Mucha is my all time favorite artist so I had to get this book. The illustrations are large and look great.

While the book itself is very informative, I had expected the paintings, posters, etc. to be on gloss paper. I had seen his work in Prague and was blown away by his talent. However, being printed on matt paper does not do his paintings justice.

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