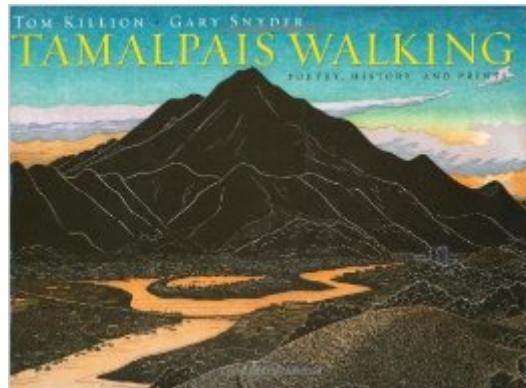


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Tamalpais Walking: Poetry, History, And Prints



Synopsis

Seventy-two views of Mt. Tamalpais In a new collaboration by the authors of the bestselling The High Sierra of California, readers are introduced to the unique mountain overlooking San Francisco Bay. A source of story and myth since time began, Mt. Tamalpais has inspired conservationists, trail builders, botanists, artists, and poets for more than a century. With freshness and sustained delight, Tamalpais Walking explores Mt. Tamalpais's natural, cultural, historic, and spiritual dimensions. It is a book shaped by two master craftsmen collaborating on an enterprise nurtured by long and passionate involvement. The artwork is the product of Tom Killion's decades of depicting and interpreting the mountain's many moods and aspects. Gary Snyder has been hiking Mt. Tamalpais since 1948, and through poetry and a new, revealing essay he offers his thoughts on the mountain, its history, and the practice of walking meditation. Further enriched with Killion's essays on the mountain's history and selections from the work of Jack Kerouac, Ina Coolbrith, Kenneth Rexroth, and Lew Welch, Tamalpais Walking takes us deep into Mt. Tamalpais's pathways, offering original, revelatory views of a mountain prominent not just on the landscape but in the history and imagination of the West Coast.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The woodcut and letterpress artist Killion has a Japanese touch to his artwork. The modest graphic style and the coloring remind one of Japanese woodcuts, as does the nature subject matter. Killion's prints though concern Mount Tamalpais north of San Francisco. It's a nature area popular with hikers and campers and also arousing spiritual feelings. Gary Snyder's poetry goes along with

Killion's prints concerning the Mount Tamalpais notable throughout the region for physical and spiritual reasons. Snyder's poems with haiku-like lines mirror physical aspects of nature and spirituality in connection to nature. Beyond his poetry, Snyder embraced an Asian, Zen-like spirituality and lived close to nature. He spent much time hiking about Tamalpais, and he spent time in Japan to experience Asian spirituality directly. Besides the art work, Killian writes fetching essays for the book. Snyder contributes journal-like parts going back to the 1950s and '60s. But the two are not the only ones found. Quotes from the writings of Kenneth Rexroth, Jack Kerouac, Ina Coolbright and anecdotes on such authors representing the fusion of Asian spirituality and American openness of spirit and attraction to nature are interwoven into the text. There are 14 full-page color woodcuts of Killion's including the frontispiece. Others are of varying sizes in full-color or shades of dark colors. Coming upon the woodcuts of all sizes throughout the pages, one is drawn to them again and again perusing their details of coastline, clouds, craggy earth, and slopes. One wants to notice Killion's technical skill and spots of originality in this art, and also enjoy again and again the aesthetic and spiritual freshets afforded by them. At the end are three pages of color woodcuts four to a page. The book is a rare book published these days, or ever. Not falling neatly into a marketing or shelving category of the book trade, it is a risky publishing venture even considering the reputations of the artist and poet. Despite this, no effort or expense has been spared in design or production. Though it has aspects of each, Tamalpais Walking cannot be reduced to a nature book, an art book, or a book of spirituality. These aspects are joined ideally; and to some point brought together subliminally, although the book is founded in the particular place of Mount Tamalpais. Primarily it's a book of spiritual and artistic enjoyment.

The author, along with poet Gary Snyder have put together the most beautiful collection of woodcuts and poetry/history of Marin county's Mt. Tam ever. You will be transported by this treasure.

How can this combination of people and place be anything but magnificent. " If I ever have to get away from it all, and in the words of the Chinese poet, "wash all the wrongs of life from my pores", there is simply nothing better than to climb out on a rock, and sit for hours with nothing in sight but the sea and sky ". Ordered this along with new Dylan "Together through Life" and Cohen "Live in London" CD's. Was tempted to spring for Super Shipper but the anticipation is going to be a wnderful part of the process.

This book is amazing. The combined talents of writer and artist result in a book you just don't want

to put down. It's not a coffee table dust collector. It's a history of Marin county and its majestic mountain presented in a most engaging and spellbinding way. If you love San Francisco bay area history, this is a must.

Beautiful book, excellent reproduction. The essays are great, too. I moved away from San Francisco 7 years ago and this book is like a window to the Bay Area. Mt. Tam is prominent in almost every horizon along with Mt. Diablo in the East Bay. Killion has a great eye and every composition sings the praises of Tam. Inspired by the woodblock prints of Hokusai and Hiroshige, Killion brings this craft to a new audience.

Over seventy views of Mt. Tam are presented in a combination of history, prints and poetry - a fine literary collaboration by the authors of THE HIGH SIERRA OF CALIFORNIA. It's rich in essays and art and offers any Northern California library or resident a 'must have' survey of Mt. Tamalpais' importance in California history in general and Marin County life in particular. A top-notch, outstanding survey.

I own a Killion print. I compared it to the color plate in the book and I was amazed at how similar they are. This is a great thing. The writing is extremely nice, but it's really the prints that make this book wonderful for me, as I am a huge Killion fan.

It's a beautiful book, and fascinating. This was a second copy because we wanted to give it as a gift and wouldn't have wanted to give up our own copy!

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