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Joseph Cornell: Master Of Dreams



Synopsis

As a former curator and director of the Guggenheim, Diane Waldman knew Joseph Cornell well. This heavily illustrated book covers Cornell's entire career from his earliest surrealist-inspired collages to his return to collage before his death in 1972.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Cornell's exquisite boxes, intimate constructions filled with found objects and collaged images, merit repeated visits just as poems call out to be read again and again, and each new Cornell book discloses something fresh and illuminating about this most magnetic and lyrical of artists. Waldman, an art historian, author, and former curator and deputy director of the Guggenheim Museum, knew Cornell and was the first to study his unique art. Now, nearly four decades later, she brings a wealth of long-brewing insights to this gorgeous volume, which boasts not only Waldman's lucid and expert commentary on Cornell's intriguing influences but also some of the finest color reproductions of his work ever published. Waldman discusses Cornell's fascination with games, Victorian imagery, ballet, movies, all things French, the young Medicis, constellations, hotels, and birds and cites the many poets and artists he revered, Dickinson and Vermeer among them. Ultimately, the profound enchantment of Cornell's poetic boxes can be attributed to their reflection of his "deeply reverential attitude toward the universe as a mirror of mysterious truths." Donna SeamanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Waldman...interprets with a light hand the imagery of his boxes..." -- New York Times Book Review
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Well written and insightful study of this American master - nice selection of illustration put together into a nice book. Looks good on the coffee table or gracing your collection of art books.

This is a large format, paperback book with lots of photos of work, many of which I hadn't seen before. The text is interesting but full of psychological insights and artistic inferences which do not come from Cornell but from the author. I found it worthwhile as a reference work for the photos and dates of works. A much more fascinating biography of Cornell is by Deborah Solomon of Sunday NY Times Magazine interview fame. Published in 1999, I believe, "Utopia Parkway." A really good read, especially about Cornell's later life where he became famous and met a lot of rising female art stars such as Yayoi Kusama and Carolanne Schneeman (sp?) and even had sexual escapades! Not the isolated hermit we thought he was!

Fascinating discourse on the artist's interests and passions.

Excellent photos and background on one of the most influential artists of this genre.

Excellent information about Cornell's life and inspiration. A great source of photos and references.

I actually wanted a standard size book on J Cornell's life and work. This oversized with more emphasis on the art (photos) is very nice and informative.

This is one of the best books if one is looking for a good book on Joseph Cornell. Great book, great price!

I really didn't know what to expect from this book when I ordered it. I wanted to see more photographs of Cornell's amazing work. Well I got lots of those in this book, but better still, a full text of in-depth explanations of his work which expanded my understanding of this artist and how he did what he did.

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