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Imperishable Beauty: Art Nouveau Jewelry



Synopsis

"A new, imperishable beauty," was how the artist and architect Henry van de Velde described it. European Art Nouveau jewelry of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries embraced a new aesthetic characterized by sensuous forms, dramatic imagery and vivid symbolism. Many of the designers associated with the movement sought their inspiration not in traditional jewelry, but in the work of the pre-Raphaelites and Impressionists and in the arts of Japan. Rejecting the rigid naturalism typical of European decorative arts, designers such as René Lalique and Henry van de Velde, and the artists of the German Jugendstil and Austrian Wiener Sezession movements, created ornaments that expressed the spirit and freedom of the era. These artists and designers adopted a free-flowing line and asymmetrical format that invigorated their work and set it apart, while their use of natural motifs and of the female form imbued their creations with energy, sensuality and dreamy mysticism. But underlying the undeniable exuberance of these works was a fin-de-siècle edginess that endows this period with inexhaustible fascination. With nearly 120 ornaments from a single private collection--the finest of its type in America--Imperishable Beauty features all of the major designers and jewelers from this groundbreaking era. Paintings, prints, posters and textiles fill out the presentation, making this book as rich and intoxicating as the aesthetic it portrays.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

How lucky to be the owner of this fabulous collection of jewelry. My wife Julie, the jewel authority in

the family, was in raptures when examining the illustrations in this catalogue. "I would be happy to own just one of these treasures" was her lament (or hint!). The anonymous owner of this collection of the 79 jewels on display must have a good eye and presumably deep pockets. There is an abundance of gold, diamonds, pearls and other precious minerals in most of the items. There is also the great craftsmanship involved in the design and manufacture of these intricate treasures to consider. This compact catalogue has informative essays on the subject at hand. There are also additional illustrations of various decorative objects that inspired the designs of these jewels. The reproductions are clear and vivid and the printing is of high quality. Warmly recommended.

This book provides the reader with some images of jewelry seldom found in other books. I believe most of the jewelry came from a single private collector. This book does provide some history of the artists and a vocabulary. Worth purchasing if you are a fan of Rene Lalique.

Beautiful Art Nouveau jewelry book with so many photos.

Very nice book.

This book truly surpassed my expectations. The photography, selection of jewelry, and book design are ALL outstanding! This would be my #1 choice if I could only afford to buy one lavish book on Art Nouveau Jewelry

This is just a wonderful look at a time when creating beauty was an art to be mastered. Love the Lalique and everything else. Gorgeous color photos! Takes your breath away. Sumptuous and a look back at when disposable crap wasn't king.

fabulous book.

The book was well packaged and addressed. Arrived before the specified time which was great. Purchased this book for a friend who is ecstatic with the quality and the content. A truly beautiful book. The quality was better than described in the sales blurb. Would recommend this approach to purchasing.

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