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The Art Of The Motorcycle (Guggenheim Museum Publications)



Synopsis

Published on the occasion of an exhibition at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, in the summer of 1998, this work aims to capture the spirit of the motorcycle and the passion and excitement it has aroused in film, literature, television, and on the road. It depicts 100 models from the first - the 1885 Daimler Einspur - to recent concept bikes. Among those selected on both technical and aesthetic grounds are the 1894 Hildebrand & Wolfmuller 1500cc, the pivotal BMW R32, the late-1920s four-passenger Boehmerland/Czechie, the popular 1950s Honda 50 Super Cub, the quintessentially American 1977 Harley Davidson XLCR, and the Ducati 916. Each bike is described in detail, and the book also contains essays which discuss motorcycle-related films, fashion, life-style and history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you can only have one book of this type, this is the one to have. The photos alone are worth the cost and the thoughtful commentary and essays are an added bonus. A carefully crafted book that is the result of an historic exhibition of machines as art. I have perused this book over and over again and think that anyone interested in motorcycles will do so as well. Highly recommended.

If you didn't get to the Guggenheim Museum to see the Motorcycle as Art exhibit, or did and want a great book showcasing this historic event, and the artistic contribution that motorcycles have made

to the modern age, this is the book to have. The opening text, composed of observations of the motorcycle as an art form and reflection of the dawning machine age, through the present and even into the future, is written (mostly) by obvious non-motorcyclists and it shows in their sometimes incorrect facts and inane assumptions. Dennis Hopper wrote a long poem that is simply drivel. But the photos, and text that accompanies them, is superb and the choice of bikes to represent the history of motorcycles is near flawless. There are a few types of bikes or special individual motorcycles missing, that such a collection should have had. Something from Arlen Ness, maybe Russ Collins' triple engined top-fuel bike and even a Harley Davidson "Rat". But the entire collection from the exhibit is here and the photography is beautiful. Non-motorcyclists will appreciate what the Guggenheim has set out to do and succeeded brilliantly at... to show that motorcycles have been a real contribution to the world's art and technology, despite whether you ride or not. There is surely no better book to place in your motorcycle library or on your coffee table, even if you're not a motorcyclist. I bought mine at the museum, for \$75, and it was worth that much and more.

After having the privilege to view this marvelous display that the Guggenheim has put together you want to go back again & again to go over details you may have missed. Since this is not always possible why not have the next best thing. The photos alone are worth the price of the book especially as you can NOT take any pictures while viewing the bikes in their museum setting. Not all of them were on display in Chicago so for us it is the only way to see the ones that weren't there. But not only that to be able to go back & say remember that one, you know the one with the wooden wheels, the one that guy rode laying down on his stomach in a swimsuit, the Brittan....Thank you Thomas & crew for an excellent job.

I attended the "Art of the Motorcycle" exhibit at the Guggenheim while on vacation in NY. I drooled and "ooh-ed" and "ah-ed" at every turn. My only regret was the fact that I would have to rely on my feeble memory to recount to all my friends at home the wonders of the experience. Then I received this book for Christmas. WOW! every detail, every motorcycle, every nuance of the real thing, faithfully reproduced in a series of stunningly artistic photographs. A number of interesting and well written articles and essays round out the volume. All in all, a very satisfying read. I recommend it highly if you have any liking for two wheel transportation.

A fine selection of motorcycles, excellent photography and interesting essays make this a book that will keep you warm all winter. The descriptions of the bikes and why they were important to

motorcycle development are accurate and well written. The selection of essays reflect riding culture well and present it in a way that shows how motorcycles have reflected the values of society. It is unusual for me, a motorcyclist, to think of bikes as works of art. However, the photography of this book focuses my eyes and brain in new directions. After all, they didn't have to make that AJS clutch look like that, nor did the cases on the Italian bikes need to have that sensuous curve. Such is the Art of the Motorcycle and it is presented well here. If you missed the show at the Guggenheim or want to relive your visit, this book will suffice. Keep it on your coffee table.

The book was everything the description said it would be. It was perfect. Would not hesitate to order again and again.

Book was exactly as listed. Delivery was quick. It was a gift for my husband and he is really enjoying it.

One of the best motorcycle books I have ever seen. Worth every penny.

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