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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

The Art of the Motorcycle begins with a serious preface by Guggenheim director Thomas Krens, who calls the motorcycle "a quintessential symbol of the insecurity and optimism of our time." At 411 pages long (an 11-page, single-spaced bibliography of motorcycle books carries it over the top), it is a hefty compendium of motorcycle history, culture, design, and science. While the essays range from treatises to such fun stuff as "Bikes were always work for me," a long poem by Dennis Hopper, this thoroughgoing tome is above all a meticulous catalogue of the 96 motorcycles exhibited at the Guggenheim Museum during the summer of 1998, with details about engine design as well as

esthetics. "Another significant innovation is the machine's throttle-controlled oiler," we read of the 1911 electric-orange Flying Merkel Model V. "Lubrication was a continuing problem in the early days ... but Merkel's system ... preceded by nearly two decades both Indian's as well as Harley-Davidson's adoption of this feature." The bikes are documented with crystal-clear photographs in this precision-built book. --Peggy Moorman

This book is almost as large (600 pages) as the undertaking to put on the show on which it's based! The book contains two or more pages on each of the motorcycles that were included in the show that was 'The Art of the Motorcycle' In addition to a thumbnail of specs and citing the owner of each bike, there is a small write-up that gives a bit of background on where the subject fits into motorcycle history. I've met or know of several individuals who were involved in this exhibit and have to say this was a huge undertaking that was well executed. I missed the actual exhibit, but thanks to this publication, I can revisit it as often as I like. In addition to the bikes themselves, the authors have seen fit to supply a lot of reference material (in the way of significant publications and contributors) for the reader to explore the subject further. An amazing book that is now the jewel in my reference library!

I already had a copy of this and found one for my father, which I gave to him for Christmas. He's too old to ride anymore, but reading the essays and looking at the photos of bikes, some of which he once owned, brought smiles. The price I paid for a first edition, flawless hardcover copy, apparently a first edition, was surprisingly low. Super-high quality paper, binding and printing, and the bikes are pretty decent, too. If you love motorcycles or love someone who does, this is a must have.

Absolutely LUV LUV LUV this beautiful collection of motorcycle eye candy. It will likely never leave my dining room table :)

I admittedly got this just for the beautiful photographs and descriptions of all the bicycles at the end, but I look forward to reading the history and stories in the beginning. All around a beautiful assembled book.

Amazing an great pics! Great book for coffee table or as a gift

What a huge book! So many different types of motorcycles are covered in this volume. Very

welcome addition to my library.

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.

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