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John Derian Picture Book



Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller • Named one of the Best Gift Books of the Year by Entertainment Weekly, InStyle, House Beautiful, T: The New York Times Style Magazine, Better Homes & Gardens, Luxe Interiors + Design, People StyleWatch, Garden & Gun, The Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune, New York Magazine, and more • John Derian's home goods empire reaches far and wide—in addition to the four John Derian stores he owns in New York and Massachusetts, his products are sold by more than 600 retailers worldwide, including Neiman Marcus, ABC, and Gump's in the United States; Conran and Liberty in the UK; and Astier de Villatte in Paris. It all started with his now-iconic collectible plates decoupaged with 19th-century artwork sourced from old and rare books, a process that credited him with elevating the decoupage technique into fine art. Over the past 25 years, the brand has expanded greatly to include home and general design gifts and products. Now, for the first time ever, comes the book John Derian fans have been waiting for. Culled from the thousands of images that have appeared in his biannual collections, here is an astoundingly beautiful assortment of nearly 300 full-bleed images in their original form. From intensely colored flowers and birds to curious portraits, hand-drawn letters, and breathtaking landscapes, the best of John Derian is here. The result is an oversized object of desire, a work of art in and of itself, that brilliantly walks the line between commerce and art, and that is destined to become the gift book of the season.

Book Information

Hardcover: 368 pages

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Product Dimensions: 11.3 x 1.5 x 14.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 53 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #60,115 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic Design > Printmaking #29 in Books > Arts & Photography > Collections, Catalogs & Exhibitions #63 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > Decorating & Design > Decorating

Customer Reviews

[View larger](#) [From the Publisher](#) In 1983, while combing through a flea market in Salem, Massachusetts, a young artist named John Derian happened upon a box of nineteenth-century books. Inside were two remarkable, intensely colored loose prints that unleashed an obsessive curiosity. Had these prints come from other books? How could the color be so vivid when the prints were so old? That curiosity led him to what would become a lifelong search for centuries-old prints of flowers, fruits; animals; calligraphy; and other beautiful memorabilia. A few years after finding those first prints, Derian discovered the forgotten craft of decoupage—the art of cutting and gluing images under glass—and realized that this art form was the ideal way to share his passion for the printed image. Fast-forward to today: John Derian designs and oversees the handcrafting of more than six hundred one-of-a-kind plates, paperweights, platters, and trays, which are carried by hundreds of gift shops worldwide. A John Derian piece inspires a timeless fascination. You hold it. You turn it over. And you’re compelled to look again. Nearly thirty years after he began his journey, Derian offers for the first time a highly curated collection of his most coveted images removed from under the glass, shown with all their imperfections. The iconic human eye. An eighteenth-century illustration of a sea fan. A wistful note written in elegant script. The pages capture the unmediated pleasure of image meeting eye and everything else that comes with it: the layers of meaning, the mystery of its origins, the silence of a work frozen in time. I can’t wait for you to experience it. — Lia Ronnen, Publisher, Artisan Books.

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[Variegated Tulips; W. Mallinson, from The Universal Herbal by Thomas Green; England; c. 1819.](#)
[#039;Bantam Cock#039;; The Bantam Cock; Eleazar Albin, from his A Supplement to the](#)
[Natural History of Birds; England; 1737.](#) [#039;Things I Like#039;; scrapbook collage detail;](#)
[artist unknown; USA; c. 1930.](#) [#039;Ornamental Flower Bed#039;; Ornamental Flower Bed;](#)
[engraved by Alfred Adlard; England; 19th century.](#)

“Thick, satisfying . . . gloriously oversize. . . . A treasure trove of inspiration, the artist’s first book is an object to covet.” —The Wall Street Journal
 “Big lush pages.” —The New York Times
 “A feast for the eyes. . . . The book brims with untold stories.” —Wallpaper
 “Joyfully nostalgic. . . . An eye-popping tour of [Derian’s] archives.” —Elle Decor
 “Destined to become a collector’s item.” —Better Homes & Gardens

“The quality of paper and ink used in making the book makes you feel like you’re flipping through a collection of prints.”
 •The Houston Chronicle “This simple, beautiful book filled with nearly 300 images from the 18th and 19th centuries, defies categorization. . . All of the oversize pages are frame-worthy.”
 •The Los Angeles Times “If you could bring yourself to rip out the pages and frame them, you would be able to decorate an entire apartment with this book. But having all the exotic and vintage illustrations in one place—fantastic creatures (mostly dogs), seafaring vessels (and men), far-flung gardens (and the things that grow in them)—is a warm comfort on a cold winter day.”
 •T: The New York Times Style Magazine “John Derian’s ultimate paperweight.”
 •Vanity Fair “A picture book for adults: John Derian’s dreamlike world fascinates. . . . We bet we’ll see framed pages from this book on many walls.”
 •PaperCity “Gorgeously wordless.”
 •The Boston Globe “No words. Doesn’t need them.”
 •New York Magazine “An enchanting miscellany of marvels.”
 •Harper’s Bazaar (U.K.) “Set to triumph in this season’s top coffee table book competition. . . . John Derian Picture Book contains beguiling images drawn from old prints and lithographs. . . . We suspect that some people may buy two copies, one to display and another to cut up for pictures and to decorate the walls.”
 •The Times (London) “Truly a must-read.”
 •Vogue.com “If there’s one coffee-table book that’s the must-have gift book of the season, this one is it. . . . Arresting, odd, and lovely images.”
 •Kirkus Reviews

John Derian is an artist and designer who transforms printed images from the past, and in doing so transports the viewer to another world. He established John Derian Company Inc. in 1989, and his decoupage plates, platters, paperweights, coasters, and bowls are still entirely handmade in his studio in New York City, where he employs a small staff of artisans to assist with production. His designs are sold at upscale home stores, in catalogs, and at gift shops worldwide, and he has designed exclusive collections for Cisco Brothers, Astier de Villatte, Target, and more. His retail shops, studio, and homes have been featured in Vogue, T: The New York Times Style Magazine, The World of Interiors, Elle Decor, and Vanity Fair, among others.

John Derian is incredibly talented & I have been admiring his beautiful decopodge plates for years!

When I saw his book in my favorite home decor store recently I couldn't resist ordering it for less on ! In fact I ordered 2, one as a gift. The book is full of gorgeous prints one after the other of animals, insects, floral images, a ship, people, ... So vibrant & colorful! It's inspiring to examine the fine detail of each print. Have a magnifying glass next to this fantastic large book on my coffee table! Love love love this book!!!

Well, I have to admit that I am kind of disappointed. But I'm also coming from the perspective of not having paid full price or even the discounted price for my copy. I was able to purchase this book used and paid less than half the cover price. Had I paid full price or price I would have been a whole lot more disappointed. Here is what I like: The book is very well made. Reproduction of the images is sharp and clear and colorful. The paper the images are printed on is a good quality stock. The images are, indeed, very large - I would guess much larger than the originals based on my experience with antique chromolithographs and steel engravings. If you're looking for details of antique images you're going to get that with this book. What I don't like so much: Because the images are so large - more than double or triple their original size in many if not all cases - some have lost their "prettiness" for me. Content on several pages is very sparse. Many of Derian's favorite images, which is what this book is all about, didn't really excite me. The double-page spreads. Ugh. I hate them. (I've included photos to illustrate my points. My photos of the faces are not detail shots - they are really that large in the book - book page size is about 11" x 14" and the images fill the page.) So bottom line - had I paid full price or price I would have been sorely disappointed. But I didn't and because the amount of money I invested was smaller I can set the bar a bit lower. Given that, had I looked through the book before I'd purchased it I have to admit that I would have probably waited for it to get really really cheap. Book content is 3-stars, book build is 5-stars so I give it 4-stars with a caveat - buy it used if you can.

Beautiful graphics. Nothing else like it that I know of. Makes one focus on things like the logos on orange crates and the like. An exercise on seeing!

Amazing collection of art that would make for a substantial coffee table book for anyone. Gave as a gift. Recipient loved it.

I bought 5 more for friends. Beautiful.

A truly lovely book. A nice book to look at.

Such a beautiful book, really gorgeous prints, high quality paper

Not worth the money. A basic collection of vintage illustrations -- nothing I haven't seen a million times before.

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