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Wedded Perfection: Two Centuries Of Wedding Gowns



Synopsis

Wedded Perfection: Two Centuries of Wedding Gowns explores the compelling allure of the white, single-use wedding dress for modern women and its iconic stature in Western cultures. Full-length colour plates and exquisite details of nearly 60 wedding gowns and dresses from the late 18th century to the present day, drawn from Cincinnati Art Museum's internationally renowned permanent collection, are supplemented with loans from major designers. These include work by Jeanne Lanvin, Christian Dior, Paco Rabanne, Vera Wang, Bob Mackie, Yohji Yamamoto and Zac Posen. Cynthia Amnå examines the role of women within society, the institution of marriage and the evolving aesthetics of wedding gowns. Two further essays discuss the establishment of the bridal industry after World War II and the democratization of the white wedding gown for working class brides. An interpretive entry is provided for each gown detailing construction techniques and fashionable characteristics, original bridal photos, comparative illustrations, and information about the designers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Wedded Perfection is a delight” — Alexandra Eastman, *Piecework*; Much more than a catalogue. “The academic approach unravels the layers of human, social and economic history so often locked into historical objects” — Althea Mackenzie, *Costume*; Beautiful images and enlightening essays — Heather Vaughan, *Worn Through*; A scholarly record — Eve M. Kahn, *New York Times*; A showcase of beautiful dresses, and a study of the status of women in the past 200 years — Kathy

Schwartz, Cincinnati Enquirer; A thoroughly enjoyable book, I would highly recommend it to all students of creative subjects. It raises timeless issues of gender equality, society and the ever changing roles of women, and does so in a way that still enables all girls to picture themselves lavishly clad in an elaborate vintage frock. Perfection!

— Rosaleen Gallagher, LSMedia.com

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Cynthia Amneus is the associate curator of costume and textiles at the Cincinnati Art Museum. Sara Long Butler is Professor of Costume Studies, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Katherine Jellison, is Associate Professor, Department of History, Ohio University.

This is a gorgeous book full of wonderful photos of incredible wedding gowns. Yep, I needed all those intensifiers! If you love bridal gowns, if you search for opportunities to examine the finest examples of the dressmaker's art, you will love this book. The text has a somewhat feminist-liberal slant, not that I necessarily disagree, but I wish I didn't have to get attitude along with my fashion. As a former custom bridal gown dressmaker, I would prefer more information about the technical details of the gowns and less about the politics of society at the time. In any case, I recommend this book. (I bought mine directly from the Cincinnati Art Museum. Be sure to ask them to wrap the book carefully, because it's paperback, and you know the postal services plays soccer with people's mail before they drop-kick the package to your front door.)

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