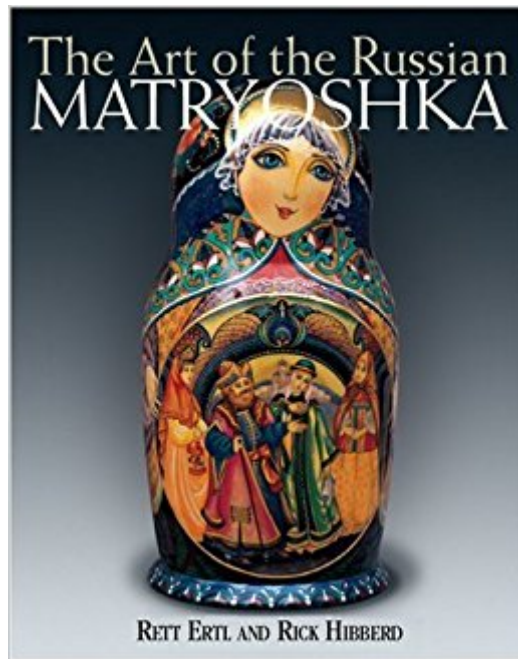




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The Art Of The Russian Matryoshka



Synopsis

The book is the complete account of the history, production, varieties, and creators of the nesting doll that has become a symbol of Russian folk culture, if not Russia itself. Contributing to the history are commissioned studies from three of Russia's leading authorities on toys and folk art. The book includes 330 color plates, 200 of which are carefully selected examples of dolls. The examples include: historical dolls from museums in Russia; factory products made throughout the Soviet period in the villages of Sergiev Posad, Polkhovsky Maidan, Semyonov, Kirov, and Nolinsk; and artwork of independent artists, photographed in several of the artists' home-studios, in private collections, and in the inventory of importer-author Rett Ertl.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anyone who's ever enjoyed seeing or playing with a series of wooden nesting dolls--matryoshki in Russian--will gravitate instinctively to Ertl and Hibberd's lavishly illustrated tome. In it, several myths are quickly debunked: first, that these dolls were born in the Motherland (they emigrated from Japan); and second, that all are made from a single piece of wood (actually, one linden tree trunk yields about four or five blanks). The authors continue to reveal the world of matryoshki, including designs, manufacturing, themes, production centers, artists, and purchase of this native toy. The color photographs alone are worth the price, aiding a true appreciation of the art, whether readers admire the elegantly decorated Cinderella dolls or a wonderfully comic Bill Clinton and "family." Includes a useful glossary of English and Russian terms. Barbara Jacobs
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...unique...Recommended for all comprehensive decorative arts and Russian culture collections. -- Library Journal
Throughout, the volume is marvelously illustrated...This book is clearly a labor of love...it comes off masterfully... -- Russian Life, Sept-Oct 2003
— Paul Richardson

This is a beautiful book, and the pieces illustrated are variously charming, complex, and gorgeous. However, if you are more interested in older dolls than contemporary ones, there are very, very few photographs of historical pieces, maybe (not a scientific count) six to eight in the entire book. This is really a book on the modern industry and its techniques and artists, with only a 12 page history at the beginning to cover all the past. If contemporary dolls are your interest, you will be thrilled, but if you like older, traditional ones (not the Clintons and the Beatles), then it seems there may still be a need for another book to be written.

Beautiful book with excellent information on the entire process of making a set of matryoshka. I was especially interested in the style involving the application of thin pieces of wood to the outside of a matryoshka. However, the authors were in error in calling the wood slivers "straw". Straw is not flat, and cannot be cut into uniform shapes. The book addresses factory decoration methods, as well as spot lighting individual artists who work independently, and sign their work.

I've wanted this book for 30 years. On my own over the years, I've pieced together the Matryoshka producing centers of Russia. This book confirmed my research. The history, including vintage photos is worth the price, but the marvelous color photos throughout are icing on the cake. I have had art Matryoshkas in my collection since the fall of the Soviet state, so here I've found the human side of these artworks. If you are a lover of these wonderful dolls, this book is for you. If you don't know Matryoshkas, you will fall in love. If you can only have two books on this subject, choose this and the earlier one by Michele Lefkovitz.

This book is wonderful!! It's very informative with many photos of how they're put together and painted by many different people, sometimes on the same dolls. I definitely recommend this book!

Book is very beautiful. I love looking at all the different styles of Matryoshka. I collect them and this book gives me information on them as well as shows me ones I would like to get.

Used the book for a class for children. One of the projects was painting a matryoshka. The book was perfect!V.C.I

I am crazy about this book. I got it to give me ideas for painting my own nesting dolls. I can look at it for hours. Beautiful pictures and a great history of the dolls.

Very Informative. Learned A Lot About Matryoshka Nesting Dolls. Great Pictures. Well Worth Having If You Want To Learn More About Russian Nesting Doll.

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