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1940's Fashion: The Definitive Sourcebook



Synopsis

Featuring 600 totally original, never-seen-before photographs and illustrations - completely redefining the appraisal of 1940's fashion Picks up on the current trend for vintage fashion, retro style and nostalgia "the 1940's is a key fashion trend Introduction offers a unique perspective pulling together the social, economic, and cultural factors that influenced this unique period, including the Wall Street crash and Hollywood glamor An essential sourcebook for fashion designers, students, vintage and retro collectors, and any self-respecting fashionista Previous successful books in this series: Fashion Sourcebook 1920s and 1930s Fashion: The Definitive Sourcebook The early Forties might have been years of make-do-and-mending and fashionable inventiveness, but the latter half of the decade saw an explosion of contemporary forward-looking fashions. 1940s Fashion: The Definitive Sourcebook is an extensive survey that brings together previously unpublished photography and beautifully drawn illustrations to provide a comprehensive overview of the period, from the austerity fashion of the war years to the introduction of Dior's revolutionary "New Look," and the rise of Hollywood glamor. From haute couture to ready-to-wear, this publication comprehensively documents the season-by-season fashions of the WWII era and the immediate postwar period. The images feature prominent stars of the decade such as Joan Bennett, Veronica Lake and Barbara Stanwyck, and designers including Dior, Lucien Lelong, Balmain, Nina Ricci, and Worth. 1940s Fashion: The Definitive Sourcebook covers every aspect of female fashions from the period, from lacy evening gowns, tailored skirt-suits and luxurious fur jackets to figure-sculpting undergarments, satin negligees and glamorous swimwear. The introduction outlines the different themes of the period and each chapter is given an introduction. Biographies of major designers of the time are included, for an in-depth look at who shaped the 1940s fashion world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a really great book-- lots of lovely images and information, and an excellent resource for anyone who's obsessed with 1940s fashion. That being said, if I could've given the book a 4.5 star review, I would have (I just didn't have the heart to give it only 4 stars, too many beautiful images!). One thing I wished it had more of was pictures of average women in their day to day outfits rather than high fashion drawings to show what the average person was wearing every day. Also, I felt that this book didn't have nearly enough hats. Really now, more hats, please!

Beautifully produced and extremely thorough. An excellent resource for anyone studying the 1940's fashion scene. It is a difficult era because the War overshadowed so much of life that one tends to think fashion simply 'froze' in 1938 and suddenly came alive again in 1945 which Ms. Dirix shows is not the case. A well organized and visually stunning cavalcade of clothing and accessories. I very much recommend it.

This new book is absolutely chock full of beautiful images and gives a really unique overview of 1940s Fashion, from haute couture to ready-to-wear. Really enjoyed the fascinating introduction by Emmanuelle Dirix which contextualises what was happen at the time and how it related to the fashions of the time. Thoroughly recommended!

This book is an excellent catalogue of 40's fashion. The amount of images, both photos and fashion drawings, is helpful since the gradual changes in style are evident as the decade progresses. I bought the 30's one as well.

I love this book so much. It's a thick volume full of photos and drawings of hundreds of outfits from the 1940s. It includes high-fashion and everyday wear. The pages are smooth and high-quality, so the images are just beautiful. Perfect for period research or just gazing at and longing for a more fashionable time.

A wonderful resource for those interested in fashion history or in having an encyclopedia of fashion insights for creative purposes.

As someone who is a huge fan of the 1940s, I was disappointed with this book. It's big and has great presentation, but it is also very limited in its diversity. For example, there are just a few pages on swimwear, accessories, etc. There are more sketches than real photographs, which would have been nice. Maybe the author wasn't able to get permission to publish real photos, but I would have loved to see photos of more well known actresses, who of course, had impeccable taste. Even a store catalog from the 1940s would have been better, because it wouldn't have so many sketches. You can't see the proper detailing in those.

Beautiful book. I brought it as I have started developing a real passion for vintage fashion and was wanting to know more about the eras. This book gives a fantastic insight into history of 40's fashion. It seems very wordy at first but once you start looking through the book at all the pictures its great to have that little bit of history. Good quality pictures, a mixture of real life photographs and designer sketches. Very informative and makes a great coffee table book.

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