

the world of ornament taschen

The World of Ornament Taschen: A Journey Through Decorative Arts History

Introduction:

Ever gazed upon a breathtaking piece of jewelry, a meticulously crafted vase, or a stunningly intricate piece of furniture and felt a surge of awe? That feeling is at the heart of The World of Ornament Taschen. This isn't just a collection of books; it's a portal to centuries of artistic expression, a deep dive into the evolution of decorative arts, and a feast for the eyes. This comprehensive guide will explore the Taschen publishing house's contribution to this field, examining the books themselves, their impact, and why they've become essential resources for designers, historians, and art enthusiasts alike. We'll delve into specific examples, highlighting the diverse range of styles and eras covered, and ultimately, provide you with a better understanding of what makes these volumes so captivating.

The Taschen Legacy: More Than Just Coffee Table Books

Taschen, a name synonymous with high-quality, visually stunning books, has built a reputation on its commitment to accessible yet authoritative publications. While many associate Taschen with their oversized coffee table books, their "Ornament" series transcends mere aesthetics. These meticulously researched and beautifully illustrated volumes offer a deep dive into the history and techniques of decorative arts across various cultures and periods. They're not just pretty pictures; they're invaluable tools for understanding the intricate details and historical context that shape our understanding of artistic achievement.

A Diverse Portfolio: From Baroque to Art Nouveau and Beyond

The "Ornament" series isn't monolithic. It encompasses a vast array of styles and periods, offering readers a truly comprehensive view of decorative arts history. Let's consider a few key examples:

Baroque Ornament: This volume plunges readers into the opulent world of the 17th and 18th centuries, showcasing the dramatic flourishes, intricate carvings, and lavish use of gold and ornamentation that characterized the era. It doesn't just present pretty pictures; it meticulously analyzes the symbolic meaning behind certain motifs, the techniques used to create such intricate designs, and the socio-political context in which these artworks flourished.

Art Nouveau Ornament: This volume beautifully captures the elegance and organic forms of Art Nouveau, a movement that embraced natural motifs like flowing lines, stylized flowers, and whiplash curves. The book explores the key figures of the movement, the materials used (like glass, wrought iron, and ceramics), and the influence of Japanese art on its distinctive style.

Islamic Ornament: Moving beyond Western traditions, this volume offers a fascinating exploration of the intricate geometric patterns, arabesques, and calligraphy that define Islamic decorative arts. It highlights the profound mathematical and spiritual significance behind these designs, revealing the rich cultural tapestry from which they emerged. The attention to detail in both the photographic

reproduction and accompanying text is remarkable.

More Than Just Pictures: The Importance of Scholarship and Context

What truly sets the Taschen "Ornament" series apart is its commitment to rigorous scholarship. These books are not mere collections of pretty pictures; they are carefully curated and researched works that provide invaluable historical context and insightful analysis. Each volume features detailed captions, explanatory essays, and high-quality reproductions that allow readers to appreciate the subtle nuances and complexities of each design. The inclusion of biographical information on artists and designers further enriches the reader's understanding and appreciation.

Beyond the Books: The Impact of Taschen's Ornament Collection

The impact of Taschen's "Ornament" series extends far beyond individual readers. These books have become essential resources for students, designers, historians, and art enthusiasts worldwide. They serve as invaluable tools for research, inspiration, and education, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of decorative arts throughout history. The accessibility of the books, both in terms of price and visual appeal, has made intricate historical styles approachable to a much wider audience than would have been possible before.

The Future of Ornament: Looking Ahead

Taschen continues to expand its "Ornament" series, consistently adding new volumes that explore diverse styles and cultures. This ongoing commitment ensures that future generations will have access to this rich visual heritage. The commitment to high-quality reproduction and thoughtful scholarship guarantees that these books will remain valuable resources for years to come.

Conclusion:

The World of Ornament Taschen offers far more than a collection of aesthetically pleasing books. It's a journey through time, a vibrant tapestry woven from centuries of artistic expression and cultural exchange. By carefully curating and presenting these volumes, Taschen has not only made this historical legacy accessible to a wide audience but has also contributed significantly to the appreciation and understanding of decorative arts worldwide. The meticulous scholarship and breathtaking visuals make these books an indispensable resource for anyone interested in the beauty and history of ornamentation.

FAQs:

1. Are Taschen Ornament books suitable for beginners? Absolutely! While detailed, the books are written in an accessible style and use abundant visuals to explain complex concepts.

1. Where can I purchase Taschen Ornament books? They are widely available online through

major booksellers (Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc.) and directly from the Taschen website.

1. What makes Taschen's approach to Ornament books unique? Their commitment to high-quality reproduction, insightful scholarly commentary, and diverse subject matter sets them apart.
1. Are these books primarily for professional designers? While valuable for designers, the books appeal to a broad audience including art historians, students, and anyone passionate about decorative arts.
1. How expensive are the Taschen Ornament books? Prices vary depending on the specific volume and size, but generally, they're priced competitively considering the quality and content.

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