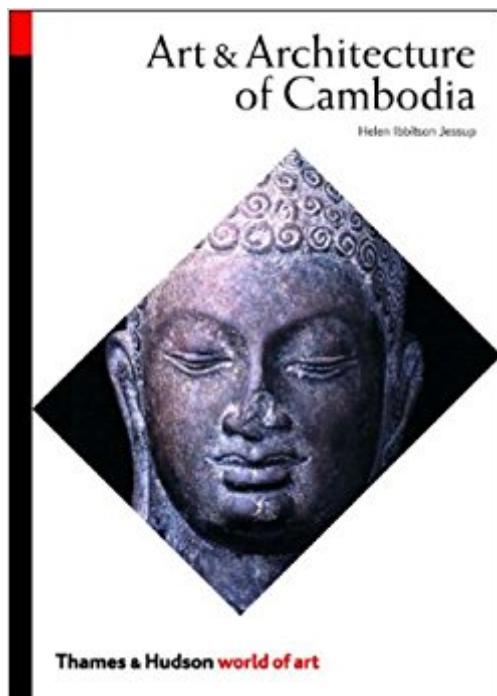


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Art & Architecture Of Cambodia (World Of Art)



Synopsis

A useful introduction to the culture, history and monuments of Cambodia, a country which is increasing in popularity as a tourist destination for the more adventurous traveller.

Book Information

Series: World of Art

Paperback: 224 pages

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Customer Reviews

Helen Ibbetson Jessup is an independent scholar and curator specializing in the art and architecture of Southeast Asia.

This book is perfect if you are not familiar with Khmer art. It gives a perspective on the evolution of Cambodian architecture and sculpture from Funan times to the fall of Angkor. It is easy to read, written in a clear style. The author highlights the main features of every period of Cambodian art and comments many interesting creations. This book includes many good pictures of creations kept at the National Museum in Phnom Penh, which is valuable because most other books refer mainly to works at European and American collections. However, the specialist in Southeast Asian art may be unimpressed, since there are not many crossed references to reciprocal influences between Khmer and other Southeast Asian cultures.

Great condition great book

Great book and very fast delivery, thanks.

There are some table top books on Khmer art available which are great, but this publication is the only _compact_ book on Khmer art available which gives a stringent, chronological and readable introduction into the history of Khmer art. Even the best guide (IMHO of course) to Angkor by Michael Freeman and Claude Jacques: "Ancient Angkor" [River Books *2003*, ISBN 9748225275, not listed at] which of course concentrates on the various temples in Angkor can be confusing concerning the time line and development of Khmer art. Moreover, Ibbetson Jessup choose many fine examples of Khmer art today on display in the National Museum in Phnom Penh. Which means, if you read the book before travelling you will be able to see the original sculptures later in Cambodia, or even better to read some sections a second time in front of the art works. This will give you a much deeper understanding of everything you will see in Angkor. This compact and readable introduction to Khmer Art this is IMHO the best travel companion available at the moment and makes a perfect duo with the guide by Freeman/Jaques.

Not up to T&H's usual standard in terms of production - binding not great (refers to pbk edition), printing of the images below current expected standards. But none of that can be blamed on Jessup - and these faults are the downside of a book which is very cheap for what you get. However, the text is another matter - by no means authoritative as the blurb proclaims - in particular, the first chapter is best left totally unread because of the errors - indicative of which is the howler on page 8 which states that Thai is a Mon-Khmer language - even the most sleepy editor should have spotted that one - unfortunately not the worst example - just the first that jumped out. BUT not all is bad - the selection of images is good and there will be at least some new to people who have an interest in this field, the bibliography has most of the important references and generally the documentation is very good. There are good examples of most of the important aspects of Cambodian art and architecture. If you want a book with a reasonable overview of art and architecture (but not of the Cambodian background) and you don't mind a small format for the photographs, then this is it.

It gives you a vague idea of the Cambodian Art & Architecture.

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