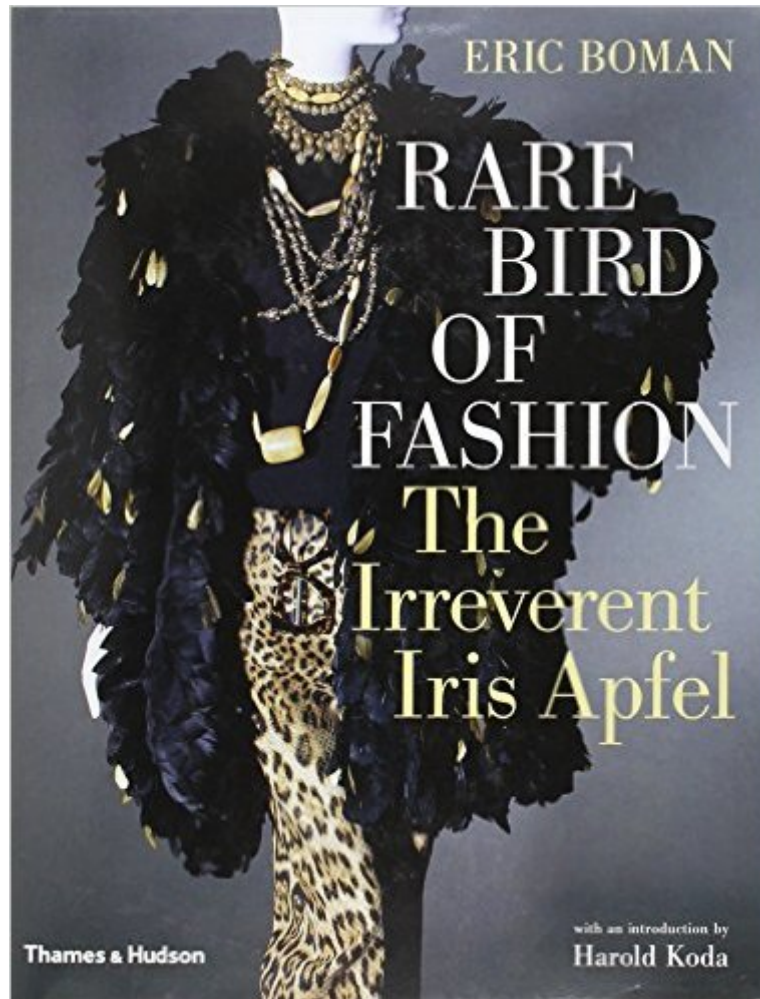


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Rare Bird Of Fashion: The Irreverent Iris Apfel



Synopsis

Captures the unique style of fashion maverick Iris Apfel and her exuberantly idiosyncratic personal chic. With remarkable panache and discernment, Iris Apfel combines styles, colors, textures, and patterns without regard to period, provenance, or aesthetic conventions. She is a unique style icon. Over ninety sumptuous color plates, photographed by Eric Boman, show off a selection of Apfel's extraordinary outfits on wittily posed mannequins, some sporting her trademark outsized spectacles. The originality of her style is typically revealed in her mixing of Dior haute couture with flea-market finds, Dolce & Gabbana lizard trousers with nineteenth-century ecclesiastical vestments, pink Lanvin worn with ropes of Navajo turquoise. Apfel's eclectic pieces might come from a Parisian couture house, an American thrift shop, or a North African souk, or they may have been made to her own design in a tiny studio. Detailed captions describe every aspect of the outfits, including names and dates of designers, plus full information on fabrics and accessories. A selection of audacious accessories also comes under the spotlight: a giant necklace made of bear claws, a turn-of-the-century Indian horse ornament worn as a necklace, a parrot's-head brooch in colored glass and rhinestones. The book includes an introduction by Harold Koda, director of the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and an essay by Apfel herself, describing her lifelong love affair with style and illustrated with vintage photographs from her personal collection. 169 photographs and illustrations, 149 in color

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Customer Reviews

I have visited the "Rare Bird of Fashion: Iris Apfel" exhibit 3 times and it is a stunning and amazing archive of the "first fashionista's" collection. This book was sold out at the exhibit so I immediately went to purchase it. I was hoping to be as impressed with the book as I was with the show. Unfortunately that was not the case. There are photos of every outfit in the exhibit which is great. But having seen the pieces in person, the quality of the photography was extremely disappointing. The lighting was flat and the choice of backdrops for the outfits washed out the colors of the clothing. The outfits that I remember being incredibly bright are dull and not so vivid in this book. This book is a great record of the exhibit but I can't say that the photographer captured the essence and true beauty of the collection.

I was lucky enough to view the exhibit 'Iris Apfel - Rare Bird of Fashion' at the Norton Museum in Palm Beach, and what a visual treat it was... Not only is she an icon of fashion, but her style, her combinations of colors and her very different approach to the matter is something everybody should see and study. I have seen and met her in New York, she is the most terrific person!!! The book is amazing as well, great photography!!! I will always treasure this book and every time I open it, there is something else to marvel at or read about... An absolutely great source of inspiration, that simply makes you smile! One could only wish there will be other 'rare birds' to follow her lead.

This book reminds all its readers that true style grows from individuality. In a time where you would recognize a stylist's style easier than the style of a designer, Iris Apfel's approach to and interpretation of fashion is the light at the end of the tunnel, she certainly has nudged me into the one or the other "true to myself experiment". Iris Apfel's witty introduction perfectly accessorizes the clothes and jewellery presented, not only providing background information on how this exhibition came to life but also shedding light on a certainly most interesting and colorful life in a warmhearted and humorous way. This book most certainly will be a longterm occupant of my coffee table.

This is the sort of book that does not do well with online bookstores. It is the sort of book you need to flick through rather than just see a cover picture and read a blurb before buying. If you are familiar with Iris Apfel you will know exactly what to expect. But for anyone else this book needs to be browsed in a bookshop to discover the delights within it. The book is almost all photographs. They are excellent clear records of Iris Apfel's wardrobe and jewellery. Any aspiring fashion or jewellery designer will learn a lot from the photographs. The clothes are styled on mannequins and put together how Iris would have worn them. This makes it an excellent reference book for anyone who

wants to learn about fashion styling. This book is also an essential reference guide for anyone who wants to stand out from the pack and make a statement with their fashion. All the outfits are truly timeless, and it is the way that they are put together which makes them stand out rather than the cost or designer label. This means that this book is truly democratic; anyone can take away something from these photos to add style to their own wardrobe.

Loved, loved this book. The comments, the photography and most importantly the crediting of designers to each style was extremely well done. This rare bird of fashion serves us notice that we should embrace our individual style and glory in it and not follow the herd or be shy about manifesting our true "feathers".

I had never heard of this person, Iris Apfel, until I saw this book in a bookstore in Pasadena, CA. And I thought I knew everyone! (from years of reading Vogue magazine) For those of you who want something different and beautiful to look at, new fashion, idea inspirations, this book is for you. She is on a design level on another stratosphere. A simply beautiful book to look at. This woman is brilliant!

I experienced Iris Apfel's fashions at the PEM a few years ago. When women turn 60, 70, we do not have to wear black stretch pants and have "old lady" hair dos. We need an "ELLE" magazine for our age group that doesn't refer to us as "Dear" and laugh if we are wearing our Ash Virgin sneakers. Rare Bird of Fashion along with Ari Seth Cohen's book Advanced Style should be read by everyone. Best, Mary

Fabulous book. I saw the exhibit at The Metropolitan Museum 3 times, and I was so disappointed that there was no catalogue. I was thrilled to see this book while browsing at The Strand. The price on was a real bargain.

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