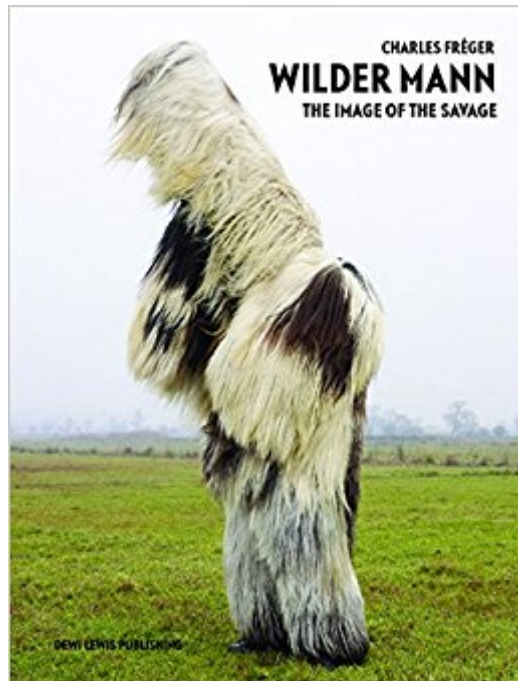




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Wilder Mann



Synopsis

The rituals are centuries old and celebrate the seasonal cycle, fertility, life, and death. People literally put themselves into the skin of the "savage," in masquerades that stretch back centuries. By becoming a bear, a goat, a stag, a wild boar, a man of straw, a devil, or a monster with jaws of steel, these people celebrate the cycle of life and seasons. The costumes amaze with their extraordinary diversity and prodigious beauty. Work on this project took leading French photographer Charles Fr   ger to eighteen European countries in search of the mythological figure of the Wild Man.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Charles Freger: Charles Freger is one of the most important representatives of young French photography. He devotes his work almost exclusively to portraiture - to the poetic and anthropological representation of social groups such as athletes, school children, the armed forces, etc. Robert McLiam Wilson: Robert McLiam Wilson is a Northern Irish novelist. In 2003, he was named by Granta magazine as one of 20 "Best of Young British Novelists." "Ripley Bogle" won the Rooney Prize and the Hughes Prize in 1989, and a Betty Trask Award and the Irish Book Awards in 1990.

The beautiful photographs of Charles Fr   ger bring alive the remnants of ancient culture that still survive today all over Europe. We think of Europe today as sophisticated and cosmopolitan, but through the medium of special celebration we are allowed a glimpse into a more primitive past,

reminding us that European culture was not so different from other cultures where today the "wildness" is still much closer to the surface. I was disappointed not to see some of the primal British costumes, or "skins" as they are called in this book, like "Jack-in-the Green", the "Horn" dancers, or the Mari Lwyd of Wales, but their Continental counterparts are certainly here. I recommend this book to anyone interested in folklore, anthropology, or even costume design.

What a great photobook. These costumes of demons, animal gods and imaginary spirits and creatures created for various European Folk Festivals is an imaginative and rich viewing experience. The costumes can be in turn creepy, grotesque, funny or truly bizarre. There's horns, fur, leather, bells, bones, woven fibers, scrap fabrics, junk - these things are made up of just about anything. Proportions and looks vary from giant big headed monsters, to inflated sack people, to wonky tree covered pranksters, to people that look like the Minotaur. For me the best aspect is that it is a VISUAL art book. Meaning the majority of the book is plates. It's page after page of the costumes. The majority of pictures are presented just like what you see on the cover - a single LOOK standing in a natural but unobtrusive background. Everything has been printed on GREAT paper, surrounded by just a enough white border. In the back there are pages quickly delineating the meaning and folklore behind certain groups of costumes, their mythology and what festivals they are used for and where. The BIG practical bonus to the guide in the back is that the author provides dates for each festival! The book is a little compact. Maybe 1 or 2 inches bigger would have made it perfect - but you can tell the whole project was done in the highest caliber and the price is reasonable for something so lovingly done.

Even more amazing than the National Geographic article that I saw about it (that prompted me to search for the book). Great photos and commentary to describe what each is about -- this is a part of us as humans that has long been neglected/denied/ignored but these photos resonate deeply with that "Wilder" part in all of us that we need to embrace and seek to understand! The book seller delivered very promptly and the book was in perfect, new condition!

great book with surprising pictures of leftover tribal European traditions, often you feel like looking at African or Indian tribal costumes, amazingly well documented with good background information about the rites and habits which come with the costumes. Several friends were so amazed by my copy, that they ordered the book for themselves

A wonderful photo book of lingering traditions. I could wish the explanations of the customs went into a little more detail, but for the number of photos included, that would make this book massive. A very enjoyable browse and makes me want to seek out more on the fascinating customs depicted.

This book, although difficult to find, catalogs some of the most interesting "characters" of European traditions. The images are of high quality, and the costumes are really quite beyond the realm of imagination. I do wish there were more images and more background information, but this is a remarkable document of the human spirit.

Inspiring, amazing book! These photographs by Charles FrÃ©gier of tribal festival costuming across Europe are incredibly beautiful. A great documentation of creativity and imagination. This book has a special place in my library.

The images are stunning, and are on proper, glossy color plate paper. I would have liked it better if the images and text were better aligned, but still wonderful nonetheless.

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