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Chanel: The Vocabulary Of Style



Synopsis

Gabrielle Bonheur "Coco" Chanel (1883-1971) was undoubtedly the most influential fashion designer of the 20th century. Her clothes and accessories have remained perennially chic, and her legendary fashion house continues to exert a powerful sway over today's designers.

Jean-Philippe Gautier tells the story of Chanel's iconic style through hundreds of images, many taken by the leading lights of fashion photography, including Richard Avedon, Gilles Bensimon, Patrick Demarchelier, Horst P. Horst, Annie Leibovitz, Man Ray, Helmut Newton, Irving Penn, and Ellen von Unwerth. This innovative volume pairs classic and contemporary photographs, placing fashion plates from Chanel's time alongside those by the house's designer-in-chief, Karl Lagerfeld. For instance, Cecil Beaton's portrait of Chanel appears alongside Lagerfeld's image of Cate Blanchett emulating her, and a classic plate by Henry Clarke flanks an arresting shot by Juergen Teller. Through these dazzling photographs, *Chanel: The Vocabulary of Style* identifies key elements that have defined Chanel's style for generations, such as jersey and tweed, formerly considered menswear fabrics, and the little black dress, which transformed a hue previously reserved for mourning into a statement of elegance. Pearls were her staple, and she often embellished outfits with her signature camellia. Eleven chapters compare the original forms of these enduring trademarks with their later expressions over the years and to the present day, letting the vocabulary of Chanel's style speak for itself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This elegant, beautifully designed volume features hundreds of photographs, both classic and contemporary, often shot by photographers who are themselves legendary." —Globe & Mail

Jérôme Gautier is a journalist and fashion historian. A passionate collector of fashion magazines, he lives and works in Paris.

I received this as a requested gift and although it features some beautiful photography, I'm disappointed and annoyed--because I think it's being marketed in a way that would have you believe it's about Coco Chanel--but it's really not. What it does is give her some lip service with a smattering of photos. The balance--roughly 75%--is about Karl Lagerfeld and Chanel magazine ads from the 90's & 2000's; which I've already been bombarded with for the past 20 years. I'm interested in fashion history from the early 20th century and wanted a biography / historical timeline of Coco Chanel's collections and was hoping for a substantial coffee table book featuring ONLY that. Does such a thing exist? Or must every recent publication pay homage to Lagerfeld? I'm asking because I'd love a tried and true recommendation if anyone has one.

Gorgeous coffee table book! Would make a great gift.

Don't buy this book if Coco Chanel is your real interest. Twice now I've purchased a book I thought would be mostly about La Chanel only to find it is mostly eulogizing Karl Lagerfeld. I'm beginning to think that any author who wants to access the Fashion House's historical records can't do so unless Lagerfeld gets top billing. I won't get caught again.

I have it on my coffee table it's a gorgeous book

mine experience was good!!!

Love it

Gorgeous book!

Beautiful publication, very informative

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