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Burning Man: Art On Fire



Synopsis

Every August, tens of thousands of participants gather to celebrate artistic expression in Nevada's barren Black Rock Desert. This vastly inhospitable location, called the playa, is the site of Burning Man, where, within a 9-mile fence, artists called Burners create a temporary city devoted to art and participation. Braving extreme elements, over two hundred wildly ambitious works of art are created and intended to delight, provoke, involve, or amaze. In 2013, over 68,000 people attended - the highest number ever allowed on the playa. As Burning Man has created new context, new categories of art have emerged since its inception, including Art to Ride, Collaborative Art, and of course, Art to Burn. *Burning Man: Art on Fire* is an authorized collection of some of the most stunning examples of Burning Man art. Experience the amazing sculptures, art, stories, and interviews from the world's greatest gathering of artists. Get lost in a rich gallery of images showcasing the best examples of playa art with 170 photos. Interviews with the artists reveal not only their motivation to create art specifically for Burning Man, but they also illuminate the dramatic efforts it took to create their pieces. Featuring the incredible photography of long-time Burning Man photographers, Sidney Erthal and Scott London, an introduction from Burning Man founder Larry Harvey, and a foreword from Will Chase, this stunning gift book allows Burners and enthusiasts alike to have a piece of Burning Man with them all year around.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Burning Man: Art on Fire provides a fine authorized collection of some of the amazing art work of

the Burning Man annual gathering, collecting the sculptures, art installations, and stories from attendee artists and presenting a gallery of some 200 images representing the best of Burning Man creations. From photos to an aerial-view poster, this pairs full-page color photos with discussions of how each piece was created within the Burning Man festival. From silicon rays that use technology and art to the outer limits of self-expression to the creation of Burning Man temples, this is a fantastic art book packed with full-page color images all paired with discussions and packed into an oversized coffee-table creation accessible to art collections and individual fans of Burning Man culture alike." - The Midwest Book Review, California Bookwatch: November 2014

"The desert festival known as Burning Man has evolved far beyond its 1990 origin as a simple party on a San Francisco beach centered on the immolation of a humanoid wooden sculpture. Now taking place on a dry lake bed in Nevada, the event is a giant noncommercial hedonist blowout for thousands of people revolving around a climactic incineration. This volume is an opulent photographic exploration of the artistic side of the celebration ranging from static sculpture to fire-breathing mutant cars. Short prefatory essays define Burning Man's history and ethos and give brief glimpses of the design and construction of the varied pieces on the unbelievably difficult terrain of the desert. The sculptures are as various as the minds of the creators and include free-form blobitecture, steampunk vehicles shooting flame, giant comic-book pirate ships, filigree steel female nudes, 40-ton granite boulders suspended overhead, dragon-shaped aluminum can smelters, vast wood and canvas temples, and a multiplicity of personal expressions designed to enhance the experience of the attendees.

VERDICT The lush photography and fine printing will appeal to art and nonart audiences and the breezy text is aimed at inclusion rather than erudition. Whether you like the art pieces is a matter of taste, but this book is a great way to experience a bit of the thrill." - Library Journal

"Burners wait all year to travel to a remote desert where they create stupefying art and build amazing sculpture - then burn it all down a week later. Fortunately, someone took some pictures!" - Paul Reubens (aka Pee-wee Herman)

Jennifer Raiser is a writer, strategist, business leader, and Burner. She has written for the San Francisco Chronicle, Huffington Post, Harvard Business School, and her online magazine, SFWire.com. She serves on the board of the Burning Man Project, volunteers as a Black Rock Ranger, and welcomes participants aboard the Kazbus Mutant Vehicle.

Sidney Erthal has had his camera poised for the past seven Burns which is how Burning Man aficionados carbon-date their experience with the festival. Born and educated in Brazil, he has lived in the San Francisco Bay area for the past decade.

Scott London is a longtime photographer of Burning Man, and his photos

have appeared in Rolling Stone, Vanity Fair, GQ, and National Geographic Traveler. He is the former host of NPR's "Insight and Outlook." Larry Harvey is the Founder of Burning Man and Burning Man Project. He currently serves as head of the Burning Man Project's Philosophical Center, conceives the theme of the Burning Man event each year, and determines the design of the Man and its base. He is passionate about books and art, and resides in San Francisco. Will Chase is a writer best known for his role as publisher of Burning Man's online newsletter, Jackrabbit Speaks, and as editor of The Burning Blog. He is also a long-time art curator and arts consultant through his company, Will Chase Arts. Leo Villareal is an artist who works with light and scale. He has created numerous iconic works including Multiverse for the underground walkway of Washington's National Gallery of Art, Hive for New York's Bleeker Street subway station, and The Bay Lights, spanning the Bay Bridge between San Francisco and Oakland.

Having missed making my pilgrimage to the annual Burningman festival after partaking a half-dozen times, I've missed it with all my heart and soul: As an adult guy in his 60s, I can honestly say that Burningman continues to be one of those genuine rites of passages and a primal experience celebrating the very best of humanity and creativity. And Jennifer Raiser has made it easier for me not to venture forth into the Black Rock Desert Wilderness by bringing to me her masterful, gorgeous, phenomenal, magnificent and rich color photographs of Burningman to me! That's the second best thing to actually being there! And without the dust! For anyone who has never been but wishes to experience the visual essence of Burningman - this book is a must have! For those of us who have been to Black Rock City but have missed being there in recent years -- Raiser's achievement will help lessen the pain of not returning! She's nailed it!

Having been to Burning Man for 19 years, this publication embodies the poetry of both the art and the emotion of this extraordinary event. Burning Man is a transformative experience, the only international city of peace, art, music, and personal expression in the world! Reproducing the beautifully done photographs across both pages, captures the scale of the art within the vast background of the Playa. And so importantly, the words of the artists who endure the extreme elements, spend all their money, and enlist all their friends to produce this fantasy world that could exist nowhere else. This book comes as close to being there as you will ever find in print. And for me, a blessed reminder of the wonder and magic I have experienced through the years. Thank you

Patty Cole

Photos are top shelf, and the background text helps put it in perspective. An interesting coffee table book.

Stunning photos and info, inspiring, the best book on Burning Man that I have seen.

Excellent book that is not just a collection of awesome photographs, but also some extremely well written explanations why art is significant as well.

This book is exactly what I expected. I've been to the burn multiple times and I wanted a nice table piece to show art to my non burning man friends. It has been a rousing success. It's a quality book that's big with great pictures and definitely highlights the art of burning man. I'd recommend this for experienced and new people alike

Incredibly beautiful book. If you haven't been to BM - this book will help you to visualize what it is about. If you have - it will help you to relive that experience again and again.

Beautiful pictures and makes it easier to explain the event to people who ask about it. Many of the art pieces I found most memorable were included.

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