



A Love for the Beautiful: Discovering America's Hidden Art Museums

Susan Jaques (Selections)

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Some of the country's best art is hidden in plain sight, in museums largely unknown outside their regions. How works by masters like Rembrandt, Picasso, Hokusai, and O'Keeffe wound up where they did is a colorful tale of American art collecting. Each of the fifty museums profiled in this richly illustrated book offers a uniquely personal, intimate art-viewing experience. "What a wonderful book this is for art lovers of every stripes -- a guide to top-tier collections around the United States that are hiding in plain sight. From cowboy art to pre-Columbian, Boucher to Braque, it can all be found at the 50 lesser-known museums that star in A Love for the Beautiful. Susan Jaques' lively guide will prompt hours of enjoyable browsing -- as well as dreams of a cross-country art tour. I'll start mine at the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden in New Orleans." -- Annalyn Swan, Pulitzer prize-winning co-author of *de Kooning, An American Master*

A Love for the Beautiful: Discovering America's Hidden Art Museums Details

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From Reader Review A Love for the Beautiful: Discovering America's Hidden Art Museums for online ebook

Stacy says

A great book on museums found throughout the United States that are not well known to tourists and visitors but are worth a look or a trip off the beaten path. It covers collections of fine arts, textiles, sculpture, paintings, furniture, glass, etc.... I already have some new "must see" museums for my next trip.

Laura says

I received this book from goodreads. What a beautifully put together book on musuems in our country that are sometimes overlooked as they don't have some of the huge names. I want to visit them ALL! This is going to be my vacation guide from now on! The one I want to go to this year (since it is close) is the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids Michigan. It has 125 acres of sculpture and art to see! One day when I get to Florida I want to get a chance to see the Dali Museum in St Petersburg Florida. Not only does it have magnificent artwork in it, but the building itself is remarkable. Thank you for this book and I am so excited to learn of these other art museums!

CALajos says

In this lavishly-illustrated (more than 250 full-color photographs) guide, Jaques (Bachelor of Arts, History, Stanford University; Master of Business Administration, University of California at Los Angeles), a journalist specializing in art and travel and a gallery docent at The J. Paul Getty Museum, introduces readers to art collections in fifty lesser-known American museums. Covering museums in thirty-one states with "geography" factoring into her selection process, the author showcases "diverse" museum collections that remain "hidden" or "under-the-radar" to many museum goers, even though they may be located on the "beaten path" or in "plain sight." (p. xii) Not known for their blockbuster exhibitions or encyclopedic holdings, these "unsung," "largely unknown" museums constitute "collecting" museums that display "extraordinary" art from their permanent collections and "tend to be exceptional in specific areas." (pp. xii-xiii) They typically offer "unique" art-viewing experiences that are "genuine, intimate, and uncrowded." (p. xii) Jaques organizes her book into fifteen chapters, each of which features three or four museums that have extraordinary collections in certain areas. She titles chapters: African, Pre-Columbian & Oceanic Art; American Art; Ancient Art; Asian Art; Contemporary Art; Decorative Arts, Design & Craft; European Painting, Eighteenth to Twentieth Century; Medieval, Renaissance & Baroque Art; Modern Art; Native American & Western Art; Photography; Sculpture; Single-Artists; and Spanish & Latin American Art. In each entry for a museum, Jaques describes the museum, its founder(s), buildings, collections, and history. The author also sets forth each institution's address, contact information, website, hours of operation, and admission fee(s) as well as briefly highlights a few of its "must see" pieces. Of interest mostly to art lovers and travelers, this accessible, artfully- designed, engaging, informative, nicely- written, thoughtful, and well-presented publication by an experienced writer, traveler, and museum aficionado may be read from cover-to-cover and/or consulted by chapter and/or entry. While Jaques's selection criteria and classification scheme may seem too arbitrary, inexplicit, personal, subjective, and/or superimposed for some readers, this book nevertheless belongs in many public, academic, and special libraries. It is recommended for individual

readers as well as for library reference collections.--C. A. Lajos, Art History, Architecture, Decorative Arts, Museum, and Visual Studies Book Review Blog

Merreh65 says

My husband and I discovered that we had visited some of the wonderful museums covered in this book on our road trips across the U.S. Plan your next road trip around some of them. They are small treasures in unexpected settings.

David says

A lovely and insightful book. Highly recommended for the art lover. Full of information on art collections I was unaware of, and now am eager to go find. Seems this could be an entire series of books. Perhaps regional? Maybe an entire volume dedicated to all the wonderful small college/university galleries? As impressed and inspired as I was while reading, I kept thinking about many little treasures I have come across over the years, which weren't included in this book. Regardless, this book is now on my shopping list.

Benjamin says

A hidden gem about hidden gems!

A B says

Just like the title subject, this book is also a hidden gem. It is a guide to many lesser-known art museums in the United States, complete with detailed descriptions about the history of the museums, museum owners, noteworthy items in the collections, information about the artists, and photographs with helpful captions. I enjoyed reading about how many of the collections were started, often with wealthy or eccentric art collectors. The book is divided into sections according to type of art. At first, I thought I would have preferred chapters divided by geographic region, but the author explains her choice in the introduction and it's easy to see why it was a good choice. The museums are spread out all over the country and she made sure to include museums that have permanent collections. My favorite chapters were the ones on European and Renaissance art; I was not aware that there were so many collections outside of Paris and London. I also really enjoyed the chapters about decorative arts, crafts, and sculptures. I am looking forward to visiting some of these museums on future trips.

I am more of an art enthusiast or dilettante, so while I cannot offer a review as an art expert, I can say that this book was very well suited for someone like me. The book can be used as an actual guide or just an educational coffee table book, whichever suits your purpose. In fact, I spent about a month reading it, just a few pages at a time. It would make a lovely gift for anyone with even a remote interest in art.

Note: I received a copy in a Goodreads giveaway. As with any other book I've received in a giveaway, I did

not let that influence my review in any way.

Jon says

Awesome book! Susan Jaques hits the jackpot with this unveiling of some of the country's most beautiful hidden gems
