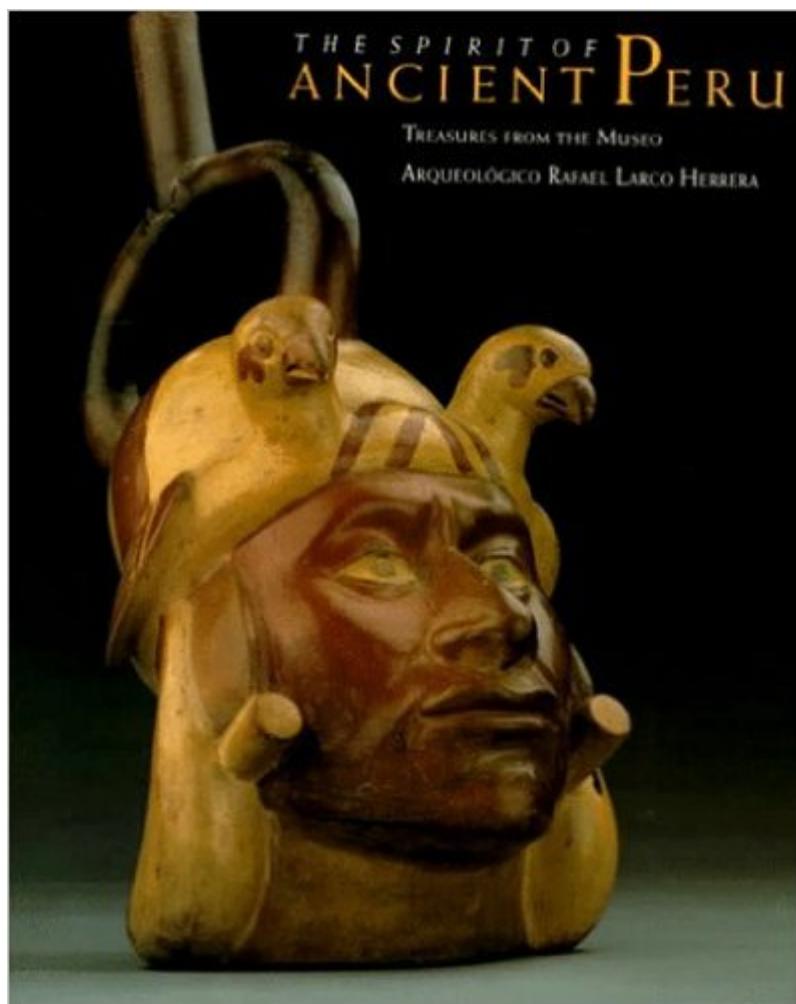


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The Spirit Of Ancient Peru: Treasures From The Museo Arqueologico Rafael Larco Herrera



Synopsis

A beautifully illustrated volume that presents more than a hundred and sixty works of art from Lima's famed Larco collection, the world's largest private collection of pre-Hispanic Peruvian art. Spectacular ceramics, textiles, metalwork and sculpture from the Chavin, Cupisnique, Salinar, Gallinazo, Moche, Parcas, Nasca, Lambayeque, Huari, Chimu and Inca cultures are illustrated and described, all with colour photographs. Some of the objects are remarkable for the skill of their craftsmanship, such as ornate gold and silver jewellery and headdresses, others intriguing for the beliefs they reveal, such as an intricate Lambayeque textile featuring elaborate divine beings, others are simply extraordinary, for example mosaics earplugs!

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Customer Reviews

This book is a beautiful, informative catalog of a show at the San Francisco Fine Arts Museum in 1997 that featured ancient artifacts from several major Peruvian collections. Top rate archaeologists and scholars including Elizabeth Benson, Christopher Donnan, Richard Burger, and Christopher Evans contribute brief essays that analyze the practices and symbols that the pieces portray and compare them to others remote in time and geography. For example, Donnan compares the Moche Deer Hunt with warlike duels between men depicted on Moche fineline vases in light of Inca ceremonies witnessed by early Spanish invaders a thousand years later. Benson's essay succinctly explains many of the conventions of the Moche canon and much else, besides. It is most wonderful that the same people also write -- and initial -- the explanatory notes for the pieces in the show, thus providing more detail. The artifacts actualize cultural symbols and themes from societies that range

from the Chavin down to the Inca with an emphasis on the Moche and Chimú. The essays and notes cover the basics of Andean culture history and the geography of the region complete with a biography and photos of Rafael Larco Hoyle himself. Thank you for the Index, the Bibliography, and the footnotes.

I must say first I haven't read this book. I bought it for its illustrations, which are plentiful, nicely reproduced, and fit well on the page. The book is well designed and the pottery and other works are really quite fantastic. I don't understand how one of the reviewers said he? she? hated the author and found the book totally undescriptive. It looks like there are about nine authors, six of them of essays of various subjects relating to the art, culture, and environment of the artworks presented. I see that each work is carefully described and its context discussed at some length. It looks to me like this book was lovingly created. It is certainly worth the price of the used paperback or hardback.

This book was totally undescriptive and I hated the author.

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