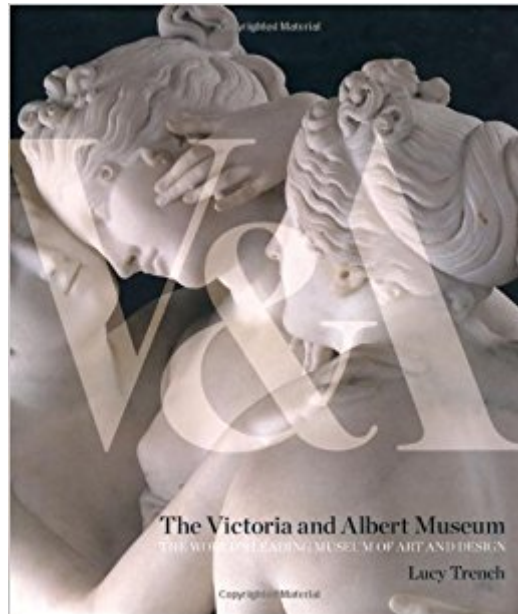




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Victoria And Albert Museum



Synopsis

The Victoria and Albert Museum, London, was founded in 1837, and since that time it has grown to be one of the world's greatest museums. This lasting celebration of this unique and much-loved institution reveals the often surprising range of its collections, and is a fascinating introduction to its treasures. The V&A's riches include ancient textiles, modern chairs, sculpture by Michelangelo, paintings by Constable and Raphael, photographs by Cartier-Bresson, fabulous Indian jewelry and miniatures, 10" platform heels by Vivienne Westwood, wallpaper designs by William Morris, Leonardo's Codex Forster I, and more than 34,000 ceramics. The chronological and cultural ranges of the V&A's collections and displays offer many different perspectives. The objects can be seen as examples of craftsmanship and design, as witnesses to history and culture, or simply as superb works of art • things of beauty in and of themselves.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lucy Trench is interpretation editor at the V&A. She is the author of Buildings and Monuments in the Royal Parks and editor of Materials and Techniques in the Decorative Arts.

The book is a brief look at the variety of decorative art categories in the V&A. Each page has 1-4 items in that category but this is more of a souvenir book for a visitor to take home. Although attempting to combine historical objects with 20th century items, you really miss out on some fabulous "wow" objects. While there is a commentary on the Great Exhibition (whose items were

transferred to the V&A) little is written about the objects in this book. The book is worth 3.5 stars. I spent 2 days in the V&A and still never got to everything. You can easily spend a couple of hours in a single room. A half day can make you reach a point you just can't absorb any more even though you are in ecstasy over the variety and quality that you are experiencing. I have waited years for an all encompassing book on the V&A to be published. I own a couple that have partially satisfied me and cover some of the collection: Design & the Decorative Arts: Britain 1500-1900 and A Grand Design. If you are willing to look at a book that covers European decorative art in general, I unhesitatingly recommend Judith Miller's Decorative Arts. Separated into time periods you will see volumes of color photos of all categories except jewelry and stained glass. This is a coffee table book like you've never experienced.

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