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Halston: Inventing American Fashion



Synopsis

INDIEFAB Book of the Year Awards -- 2014 GOLD Winner for Popular Culture

Written by Halston's niece and confidante, this is the first monograph to chronicle the designer's life and his glamorous, minimalist aesthetic that personified American fashion in the electric 1970s. After rising in the fashion world from his beginnings as a milliner for Bergdorf Goodman, Roy Halston Frowick (1932–1990) launched his eponymous womenswear label in 1968, buoyed by his connections with socialites and celebrities. As the creator of Jackie Kennedy's signature pillbox hat and as Liza Minnelli's fashion guru throughout the 1970s and '80s, Halston was synonymous both with American style's modern, glamorous look and an A-list clientele. The Halston look continues to be revered today as a marker of American fashion at its peak. This book chronicles the ultrachic Halston's journey from his homespun roots to the acme of urban fame, illustrated through the lens of the author's personal archives and early sketches, as well as unseen Joe Eula and Stephen Sprouse drawings. His story unfolds through the author's interviews with Jane Holzer, Marisa Berenson, Joel Schumacher, and Jeffrey Bilhuber, among others, all of whose personal narratives are essential to Halston's enduring legacy. Spotlighting his most important design achievements and his collaborations with luminaries such as Martha Graham, Elsa Peretti, and Hiro, this book presents to readers the untold story of Halston and solidifies his place as a key designer in American fashion.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First, it's a large "coffee table" sort-of-book with lots of well chosen and printed photos, fashion

sketches and documents. Second, it's the author's personal memoir of her Uncle H, that is, Roy Halston Frowick. Frowick is the daughter of Halston's older brother, Robert (Bob) Frowick, a career diplomat. Although 26 years younger than Halston, Ms. Frowick and Halston shared the same birthday, April 23, and on occasion celebrated it together. As the author tells it, Halston was close to his family and his Midwestern roots. During the last nine years of his life, she went to work for him in New York, became a close confidant and was entrusted by Halston with his papers "in case she ever wanted to write a book about him." In 2010, roughly twenty years later, she began the labor of love. Of course, I liked the photos, sketches and documents, but the book would not be the same without Ms. Frowick's "inside" family member perspective. I like memoirs, and particularly honest, heart-felt ones. Although she doesn't pull punches about aspects of Halston's life that might disturb some, the overall effect is celebratory, not gossipy. Particularly interesting are stories of Halston's interaction with his family members through fashion, through clothes he would make for them as gifts. Only an insider like Ms. Frowick would be able to illuminate this aspect of his life. Halston was called "Mr. Clean" at one point by *Women's Wear Daily* -- in reference to his clean design principles. The same could be said about this book -- it's very clean . . . and neat. The only thing missing, for me, was an index. Moreover, not all of the two (or more) page photos and sketches are captioned, although some, but not all, are addressed by page number references in a special section at the back of the book.

Halston is a gorgeous, intimate photo art book-- Frowick gives such a touching tribute to her uncle and the ultimate American fashion icon. Give yourself a sinfully chic treat with this book.

great reading, good dirt and insight into the man

Many Halston drawings, photos and comments by the haute monde, never before seen....a loving tribute to a great innovator in the world of fashion.

A must read for any fashionista who loves the 70's chic as much as I do. Really, really well done.

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