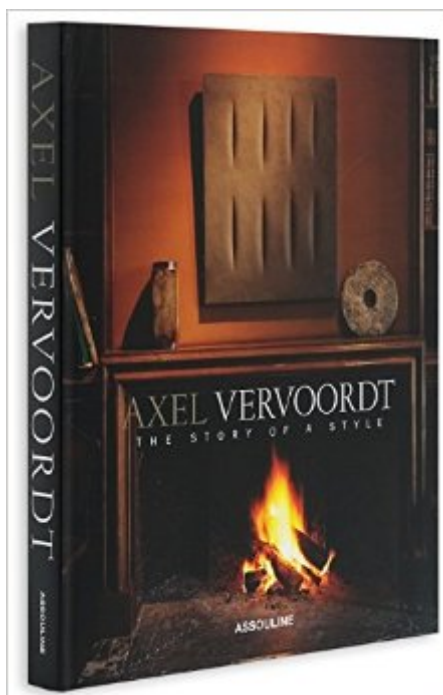


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Axel Vervoordt: The Story Of A Style (Trade)



Synopsis

Axel Vervoordt began his career as an art and antiques dealer in the late 1960s, when he meticulously renovated a narrow street with sixteen of the oldest houses in Antwerp. In 1986, his company moved to a castle near Antwerp. Axel Vervoordt's company grew rapidly in this castle and he became a major collector and decorator. The foundation of Vervoordt's style is his commitment to making the past a relevant part of today's design. By juxtaposing different works of art, gathered throughout space and time, a spontaneous dialogue between them is revealed, creating a new dimension for the future. Axel Vervoordt transcends the roles of decorator and collector. He understands the power of objects to conjure up an entirely new atmosphere and knows exactly where to place them to transform the space. This gorgeous book will be an inspiration to anyone interested in a home that is elegant and personal without being ostentatious or superfluous.

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Customer Reviews

Axel Vervoordt is an artist in his own right. A designer and collector of art from all periods of history, he presents here the work of his life's vision - creating spaces where all of the arts from all cultures and timeframes meld into subtle, elegant, harmonious and extraordinarily beautiful spaces. Vervoordt's keen eye for excellence demonstrates how architectural features of a building/living space are enhanced by a combination of art objects, drawings, paintings, murals, artifacts and bits of nature. The results are page after stunning page of thoughtful, quiet splendor.

Mixed with commentary from Vervoordt (with written statements by Meredith Etherington-Smith) and exceptional photography by Laziz Hamani this book goes far beyond the borders of volumes about design. This is a bold and inspiring homage to Style. Highly Recommended. Grady Harp, December 05

Every once in a great while a person enters this world who truly makes a difference. Axel is such a person - generous, brilliant, cultured and admired. He works very hard and has endless passion for life and for the joys of his life. This book is a glimpse into what Axel does, into what he lives for. As you read this book and marvel at what heights of artistry, inspiration, then continue on to Axel's web site, at axel-vervoordt.com. You might even be moved to travel to s'Gravenwezel, northeast of Antwerpen, and visit the world he is building there since the mid 60's. It's a wonderful book about a wonderful person.

This book is a true classic and a MUST for anyone interested in antiques or interior design. The beautifully produced tome provides a superb overview of his aesthetic which is highly eclectic, constant only in demanding items of very high quality. His style can incorporate a huge Anish Kapoor sculpture (perhaps circa 1995) with ancient stone Thai carvings, gorgeous Renaissance bronzes and wonderful European furniture. Think Rose Tarlow on steroids. The photography is excellent, almost all color, many full-page, and the scale of the book is appropriately large. Most of the book was photographed in his Belgian chateau which doubles as his gallery. His taste is not for everyone, but if the eclecticism of a Cy Twombly (a contemporary abstract painter) displayed in a warm wood interior appropriate for 17th C. Amsterdam sounds intriguing, he may be on your wave length. The array of tasteful objects beautifully presented is a key feature of the book. His collection (all of which is always for sale) will no doubt include some superb items which you have really never looked at before; when you read about the object, you may reconsider. His enthusiasm is contagious. We were very fortunate to first be introduced to Vervoordt at the 1984 Paris Biennale des Antiquaires where his booth, displaying Ming porcelain lost in 1645 in the South China Sea and recently recovered, was the sensation of the Salon. All of that massed blue-and-white in a large booth at the center of the Grand Palais drew lots of attention to the 37-year old Vervoordt and his subsequent success allowed him to restore a magnificent Belgian chateau over the next four years for use as both home and gallery. Those primarily interested in interior design may find his new book "Axel Vervoordt: Timeless Interiors" more interesting because it shows some twenty homes he has done for clients. But if you only want one book on Vervoordt and if you can afford this out-of-print

text, I'd go with the Meredith Etherington-Smith volume.

Five stars are not enough! I have savored every word of this gorgeous book. The philosophy of this remarkable man is truly inspiring--his work is very personal, and seeing it and reading about it are a privilege. Anyone interested in interior design, antiques, or art would benefit from owning a copy of this outstanding, intelligent work.

There are so many lovely stories here. One can see how Axel started as a child, investigating his finds for provenance -- not just putting them on a shelf to gather dust. The restoring of sections of an old city so that people would move back is a labor of love and imagination of Axel's mother -- then himself. I enjoyed the story of the finding of the castle. And delighted in the various types of furnishings used in the rooms according to mood and function -- and not a slave to unity of a style or decor. Here are rooms to be lived in, not just to be admired. Here is art that could be static in a museum, but is vibrant and dynamic in a place where people live fully. Thank you for a look into a universe of worlds as we move among the embodiments of Axel's various visions.

An engaging and enlightening read, this memoir introduces Vervoordt the man, antiques dealer and interior designer to the reader. I thoroughly enjoyed his philosophy on purchasing items and decorating spaces. I was especially struck by his humility. After reading the text and viewing the accompanying lush images, I came away feeling as though I completely understood Vervoordt and his metier.

but if you enjoy the philosophy of the man you will enjoy anyway. I say "fluff" because there are considerable amounts of photos of pastoral scenes ie. little lambies frolicking in meadows, statues by a relative etc. Still the book is a joy if you enjoy his eclectic mÃ©tier.

I had never heard of Axel Vervoordt before and picked this book up at Rizzoli. Illustrations are great and make you want to be there... Perfect coffee table book.

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