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John Derian Picture Book



Synopsis

John Derian's home goods empire reaches far and wide "in addition to the four John Derian stores he owns in New York and Massachusetts, his products are sold by more than 600 retailers worldwide, including Neiman Marcus, ABC, and Gump's in the United States; Conran and Liberty in the UK; and Astier de Villatte in Paris. It all started with his now-iconic collectible plates decoupage with 19th-century artwork sourced from old and rare books, a process that credited him with elevating the decoupage technique into fine art. Over the past 25 years, the brand has expanded greatly to include home and general design gifts and products. Now, for the first time ever, comes the book John Derian fans have been waiting for. Culled from the thousands of images that have appeared in his biannual collections, here is an astoundingly beautiful assortment of more than 400 full-bleed images in their original form. From intensely colored flowers and birds to curious portraits, hand-drawn letters, and breathtaking landscapes, the best of John Derian is here. The result is an oversized object of desire, a work of art in and of itself, that brilliantly walks the line between commerce and art, and that is destined to become the gift book of the season.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

[View larger](#) [From the Publisher](#) In 1983, while combing through a flea market in Salem, Massachusetts, a young artist named John Derian happened upon a box of nineteenth-century books. Inside were two remarkable, intensely colored loose prints that unleashed an obsessive curiosity. Had these prints come from other books? How could the color be so vivid when the prints were so old? That curiosity led him to what would become a lifelong search for centuries-old prints

of flowers, fruits; animals; calligraphy; and other beautiful memorabilia. A few years after finding those first prints, Derian discovered the forgotten craft of decoupage—“the art of cutting and gluing images under glass”—and realized that this art form was the ideal way to share his passion for the printed image. Fast-forward to today: John Derian designs and oversees the handcrafting of more than six hundred one-of-a-kind plates, paperweights, platters, and trays, which are carried by hundreds of gift shops worldwide. A John Derian piece inspires a timeless fascination. You hold it. You turn it over. And you’re compelled to look again. Nearly thirty years after he began his journey, Derian offers for the first time a highly curated collection of his most coveted images—removed from under the glass, shown with all their imperfections. The iconic human eye. An eighteenth-century illustration of a sea fan. A wistful note written in elegant script. The pages capture the unmediated pleasure of image meeting eye and everything else that comes with it: the layers of meaning, the mystery of its origins, the silence of a work frozen in time. I can’t wait for you to experience it. - Lia Ronnen, Publisher, Artisan Books.

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Variegated Tulips; W. Mallinson, from The Universal Herbal by Thomas Green; England; c. 1819.
'Bantam Cock'; The Bantam Cock; Eleazar Albin, from his A Supplement to the
Natural History of Birds; England; 1737. 'Things I Like'; scrapbook collage detail;
artist unknown; USA; c. 1930. 'Ornamental Flower Bed'; Ornamental Flower Bed;
engraved by Alfred Adlard; England; 19th century.

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