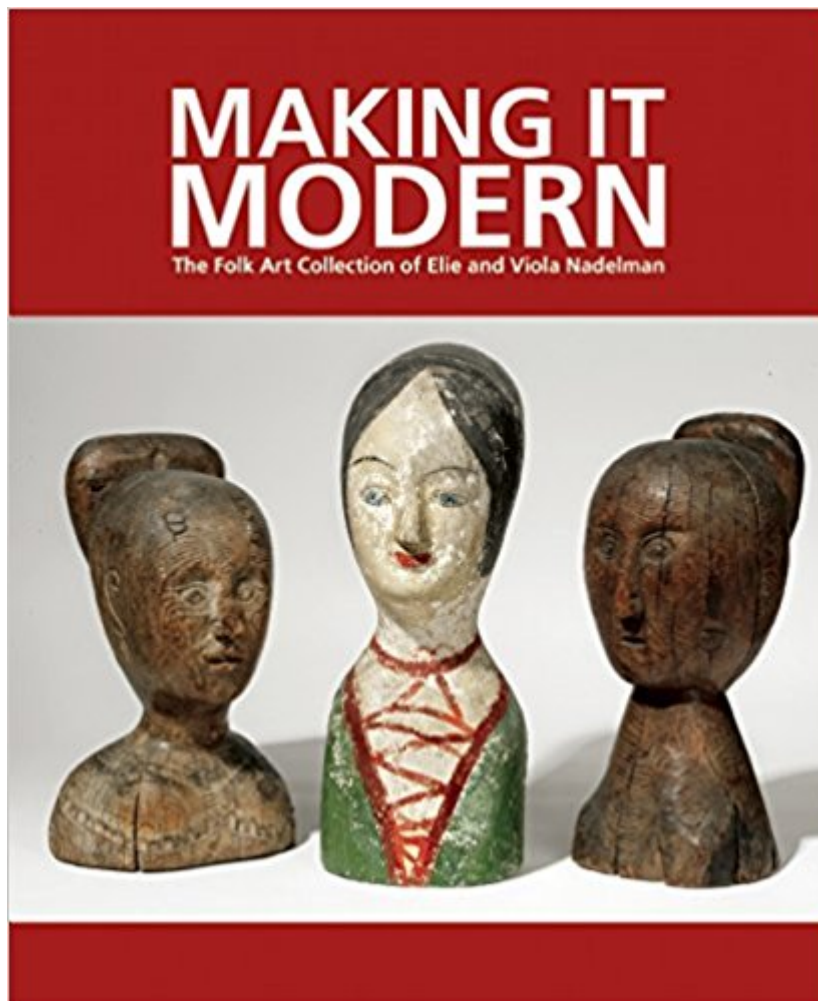


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Making It Modern: The Folk Art Collection Of Elie And Viola Nadelman



Synopsis

This lavishly illustrated volume is the first comprehensive study of the folk art collection purchased by the New-York Historical Society from Elie and Viola Nadelman in 1937. Exhibited by the couple from 1926 to 1937 in their pioneering Museum of Folk and Peasant Arts in Riverdale, New York, the nearly fifteen thousand works come from a collection spanning six centuries, thirteen countries, and a broad range of media. Authors Margaret K. Hofer and Roberta J.M. Olson explore a nucleus of some two hundred and sixteen highlights in eighty-seven catalog entries, as well as nine of Nadelman's own sculptures, and consider the possible interchanges between the Nadelman's collecting and his avant-garde art. Their research, employing new archival evidence from the Historical Society and the rich cache of Nadelman Papers, has resulted in exciting discoveries, among them Nadelman's active role in restoring some of his folk art objects. Featuring seven provocative essays, *Making It Modern* breaks new ground not only on the Nadelmans and folk art, but also in the history of American art and taste during the fast-paced cultural revolutions of the early twentieth century. Margaret K. Hofer is curator of decorative arts, New York Historical Society. Roberta J.M. Olson is curator of drawings, New York Historical Society. Elizabeth Stillinger is an independent scholar. Kenneth L. Ames is professor at the Bard Graduate Center, New York City. Cynthia Nadelman is an independent scholar and writer. Barbara Haskell is the curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Although this is not a bad book, quite thoroughly researched with decent repros, I personally find this book a bit boring. As an artist that has been influenced by and shares inspirations with Nadelman I was expecting more figurative folk art--carvings, paintings of humans etc., that the artist drew from. By the cover image you would think that almost all the work contained in the collection was related to the artist's work but that is not the case. As an antique restorer with a decent knowledge of primitive objects I find this book interesting but as an artist, very few of the works in this book make me inspired to paint or sculpt. A bit disappointing for me as I only have room in my library for books that I draw inspiration from but it is a good book for the Americana primitive collector.

Elie Nadelman is one of my favorite sculptors & it was fascinating to see how the objects in his & his wife's extensive collection of folk art influenced his work. They had "a good eye" so the book is worth having just to see the images of first rate folk art.

I am a museum docent and purchased this for a current show. Catalogue is not organized well and makes research difficult. Color photos are good, but the lack of organization keeps me from giving it more than 3 stars.

Nice book!! Great deal for money!!!

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