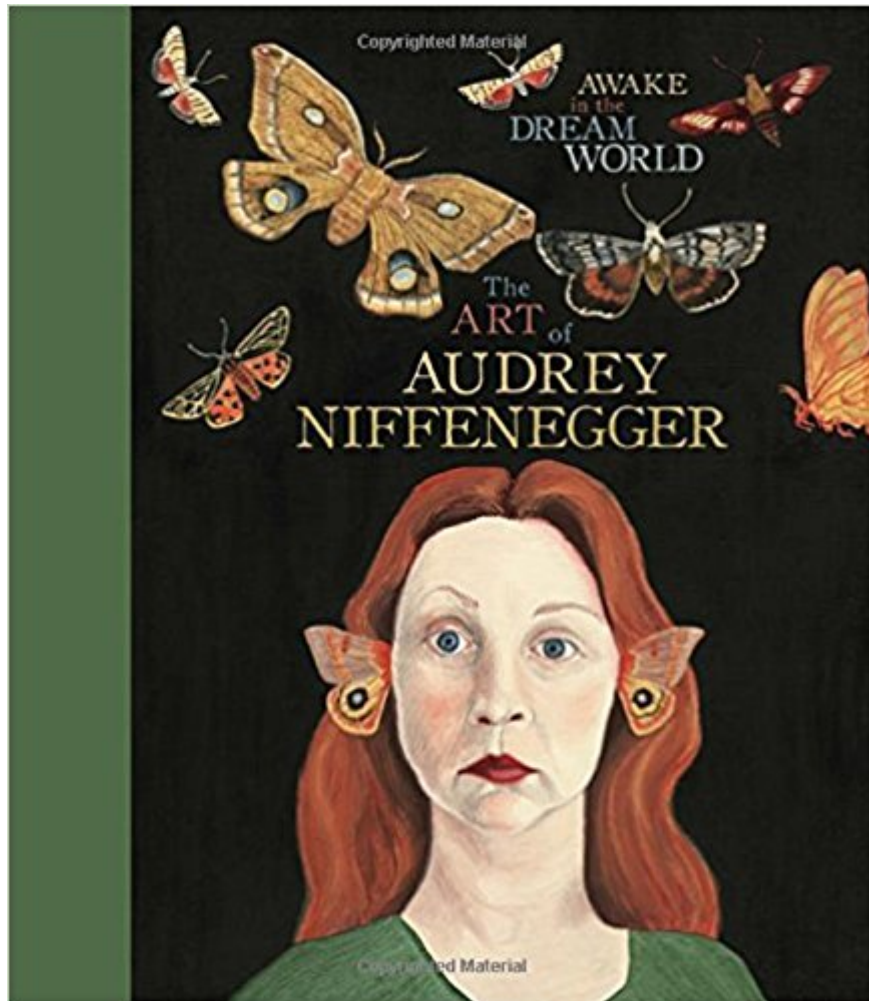




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Awake In The Dream World: The Art Of Audrey Niffenegger



Synopsis

Otherworldly, provocative, and strange, *Awake in the Dream World* channels the looming, historical grimness of the classic fairy tale, illuminating the dichotomy between the real and imagined through the context of fantasy, and bringing to life a macabre ensemble of folkloric characters. *Awake in the Dream World* is a mid-career retrospective of artist and author Audrey Niffenegger (*The Time Traveler's Wife*, bestselling novel turned feature film), reflecting her talent for cultivating a captivating narrative exclusively through pictures and her own confrontations with life, mortality, and magic. Niffenegger's fantastical body of work is reminiscent of renowned pen and ink predecessors such as Edward Gorey, Aubrey Beardsley, Egon Schiele, Edward Dulac, and Horst Janssen, but with a brutally honest and unapologetically strange female perspective that touches upon the universal trials of life—death and decay, love, jealousy, redemption, and the inevitability of change. Her works on paper, lithographs, and aquatints reflect the often surreal narratives of her artist's books. Through self-portraiture, Niffenegger reveals her own self-assurance and whimsy alongside anxiety and loneliness, probing darker corners of the human heart and mind, often exploring the hopeless struggle with what Shakespeare called "this bloody tyrant, Time." Essays by Audrey Niffenegger, National Museum of Women in the Arts Curator of Book Arts Krystyna Wasserman, and Art Institute of Chicago Curator and School of the Art Institute Professor Mark Pascale explore the artist's influences and work. Published in conjunction with the June 21–November 10, 2013 exhibition at the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Book Information

Hardcover: 120 pages

Publisher: powerHouse Books; First Edition edition (May 14, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 157687639X

ISBN-13: 978-1576876398

Product Dimensions: 9.7 x 0.6 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #261,007 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in Books > Arts &

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Customer Reviews

Audrey Niffenegger is a visual artist and writer who lives mostly in Chicago and occasionally in London. She has published six books, including the novels *The Time Traveler's Wife* and *Her Fearful Symmetry*. She helped to found the Columbia College Chicago Center for Book and Paper Arts. Her art has been exhibited by Printworks Gallery in Chicago since 1986. She is a Professor in the Fiction Department of Columbia College. Her current projects include her third novel, *The Chinchilla Girl in Exile*, and a ballet, *Raven Girl*, in collaboration with Wayne McGregor for the Royal Opera House Ballet. Â Krystyna Wasserman is currently Curator of Book Arts at the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) in Washington, D.C. She established NMWA's Library and Research Center, serving as its director from 1987 through 2002. She now oversees the museum's collection of more than 1,000 artists' books. She has curated more than thirty exhibitions of artists' books, sketchbooks, and illustrations, including *The Book as Art: Twenty Years of Artists' Books* from the National Museum of Women in the Arts (2006). Wasserman is a member of NMWA's Library Fellows, a program she developed to support the creation of artists' books. Â Mark Pascale is a lithographer who has been active in the Chicago art world for more than 30 years, as a curator, researcher, and teacher. He is Curator in the Department of Prints and Drawings at The Art Institute of Chicago, and concurrently Adjunct Professor of Art in Print Media, at School of the Art Institute. His numerous exhibitions and publications include *Contemporary Drawings* from the Irving Stenn Jr. Collection, and *Jasper Johns: Gray* published by The Art Institute of Chicago. He is currently working on a retrospective exhibition of the prints and drawings of Martin Puryear.

Most artists have their own original way of looking at things, and Niffenegger is no exception. Her work is unusual, intriguing, and full of meaning. You can appreciate it on several levels; technique, style, and image are three of them. They are not "pretty" pictures, and some people may find some of the pictures disturbing. I enjoyed the book immensely precisely because it is NOT something I've seen before.

Not your ordinary "art book." Niffenegger has a formidable imagination and splendid skills to express it. A perfect gift for an art lover who appreciates the provocative, the unusual, and the joy of unique, talented expression.

Another side to Audrey Niffenegger, even just glancing through this book will make everything else

she wrote seem tame in comparison - but in the best way.

It's a book that shares the many levels of Audrey's talents. Nice essays by well known figures in the book arts world"

Saw the exhibit and loved it. Could only describe it with the book! Includes most images from the NMWA show.

Incredible imagination. Definitely one to experience.

Freaky!

The book is beautifully printed, and I was delighted to find it on , because it would have been much more expensive if purchased from the National Museum of Women in the Arts book store (which I support anyway).

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