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Mabel Dodge Luhan And Company: American Moderns And The West



Synopsis

Mabel Dodge Luhan (1879–1962) was a political, social, and cultural visionary; salon hostess; and collector of genius in almost every field of modernism—painting, photography, drama, psychology, radical politics, social reform, and Native American rights. Luhan spent her adult life building utopian communities, first, as an expatriate in Florence (1905–12) working to recreate the Renaissance; next as a “New Woman” in Greenwich Village (1912–15), hosting one of the most famous salons in American history; and finally, in Taos, the “New World” (1918–47), bringing together a community of artists, writers, and social reformers including writers D. H. Lawrence, Jean Toomer, Mary Austin, and Frank Waters; choreographer Martha Graham; and anthropologists Elsie Clews Parsons and John Collier. With Luhan as their hostess, these European and American talents found inspiration in the mesas, mountains, Hispanic villages, and Indian pueblos of northern New Mexico. Modernist works by painters and photographers, including Marsden Hartley, John Marin, Georgia O’Keeffe, Ansel Adams, Rebecca Strand, and Paul Strand, are featured alongside indigenous art that inspired their modernist sensibilities—Native American painters like San Ildefonso Pueblo’s Awa Tsireh and Taos Pueblo’s Pop Chalee, whose work Mabel supported, and traditional Hispano devotional art collected by Luhan.

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Customer Reviews

Mabel, you were The Bomb. And, come to think, so is author/Mabel-biographer Lois Rudnick. I’ve

just returned from a trip to Taos where I saw this definitive exhibit on all the influential artists/writers/thinkers/revolutionaries who ended up in Taos, thanks to Mabel Dodge Luhan. This beautiful volume is a great way to "take home" the in-depth Harwood Museum exhibit -- or serve as a visual tutorial for anyone who can't make the journey to Taos. The book/exhibit is about special, oftentimes-counter-intuitive friendships and alliances that sprang up in the shadow of Taos Mountain. And it seems that Mabel Dodge and Tony Luhan were two of the most unlikely combos ever -- and yet they created a totally-unique home and "center of the Universe" for the likes of DH Lawrence, Marsden Hartley, Ansel Adams, Georgia you-know-who, Willa Cather, and so many more. I think I can guarantee that you will learn more than you THOUGHT you knew about many of these well-known creatives.....and also make new amazing discoveries. This beautiful volume is "the big reveal" on Mabel Dodge Luhan and her circle-- written by the most authoritative author, and sponsored by the Harwood Museum in Taos NM. Planets align!

A beautiful book with excellent art and background on Mabel and her Taos friends. It is oversized, and because of that is not as comfortable to read as a regular-size book, but worth the extra effort.

Coffee table books with lots of previously uncommonly known tidbits about Mabel Dodge Luhan. A great addition to the library of anyone interested in Taos history.

A treasure!

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