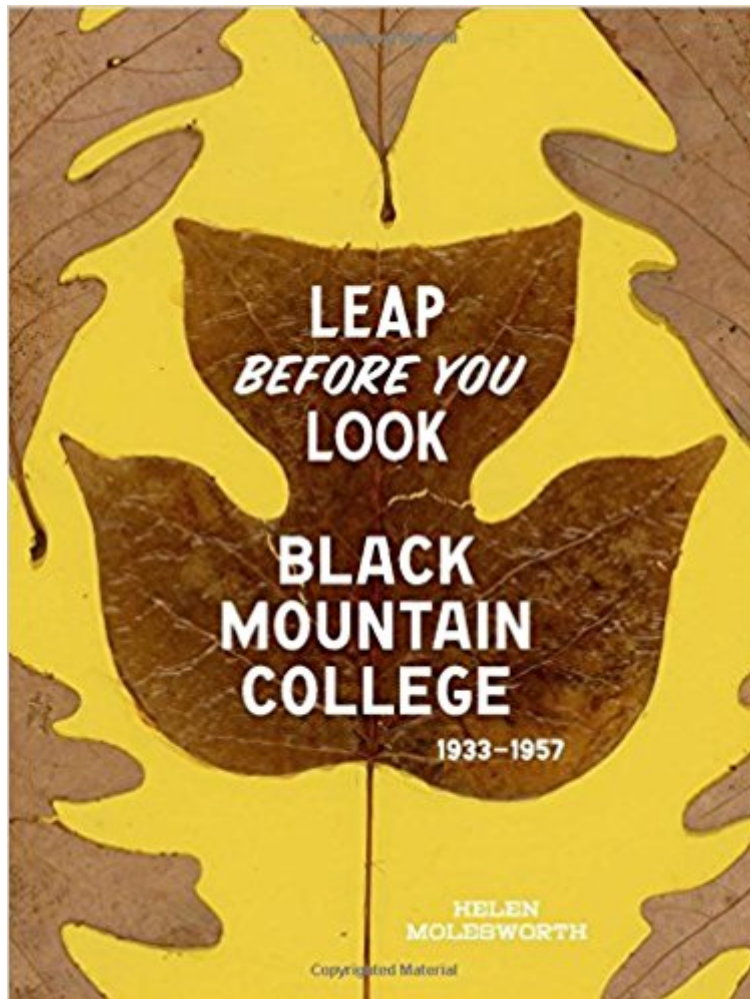


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Leap Before You Look: Black Mountain College 1933–1957



Synopsis

A dynamic new look at the legendary college that was a major incubator of the arts in midcentury America. In 1933, John Rice founded Black Mountain College in North Carolina as an experiment in making artistic experience central to learning. Though it operated for only 24 years, this pioneering school played a significant role in fostering avant-garde art, music, dance, and poetry, and an astonishing number of important artists taught or studied there. Among the instructors were Josef and Anni Albers, John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Buckminster Fuller, Karen Karnes, M. C. Richards, and Willem de Kooning, and students included Ruth Asawa, Robert Rauschenberg, and Cy Twombly. *Leap Before You Look* is a singular exploration of this legendary school and of the work of the artists who spent time there. Scholars from a variety of fields contribute original essays about diverse aspects of the College—spanning everything from its farm program to the influence of Bauhaus principles—and about the people and ideas that gave it such a lasting impact. In addition, catalogue entries highlight selected works, including writings, musical compositions, visual arts, and crafts. The book's fresh approach and rich illustration program convey the atmosphere of creativity and experimentation that was unique to Black Mountain College, and that served as an inspiration to so many. This timely volume will be essential reading for anyone interested in the College and its enduring legacy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Inserts women rightfully back into the history of BMC alongside their male peers whose history has

been fleshed out more in other publications. This catalog provides an interesting model for cross-disciplinary historical survey publications to come. Wonderful scholarship, a beautiful book, little seen works reproduced, accompanying one of the best shows of the year.

Excellent, most complete catalogue of BMC. Good descriptions of teachers & students, transition of Bauhaus ideas to America, and influence of the program on art & culture. Many nice color pictures and illustrations as well as in b&w.

Great exhibit. The catalog is excellent, well written, well designed and well researched. Buy it if you did not see the show ...or even if you did, as this exhibit is more about an important moment in 20th century art history and is not about an exhibit of major work, which for most of these artists was yet to come. It will cost a lot more when it is out of print.

This is an extraordinary book about an extraordinary institution run and populated by utterly extraordinary and talented people. We are not likely to see anything like Black Mountain College anytime in the foreseeable future. This book captures it superbly. Harvey Silverglate, Cambridge, MA

This is a wonderful companion to the exhibition currently traveling. The exhibition is one of the best I've ever experienced. It goes to the heart of how Black Mountain College in Asheville, NC and its legacy continue to resonate and influence artists today.

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