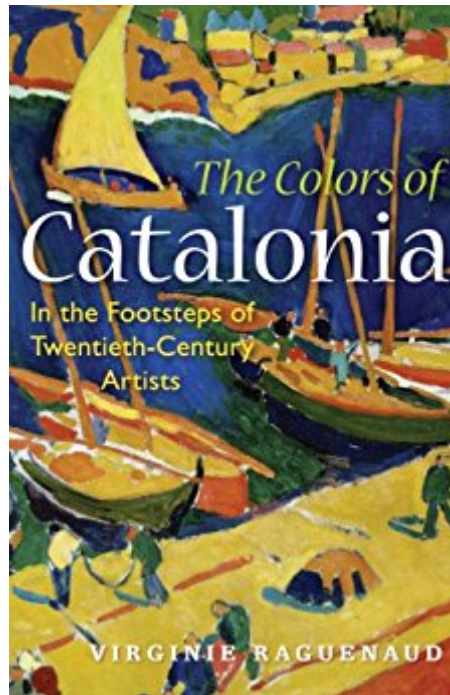




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The Colors Of Catalonia



Synopsis

“For those who visit this ancient kingdom, and those who can do so only in spirit, I heartily commend Virginie Raguenaud’s delightful book, which brings to life the inspiring spirit of Catalonia.” —Count Nikolai Tolstoy, Patrick O’Brian: The Making of the Novelist
Step into lively Mediterranean villages of French and Spanish Catalonia as seen through the eyes of Matisse, Picasso, Dalí, Maillol, Chagall, O’Brian, and many legendary twentieth-century painters, sculptors, and writers. The Colors of Catalonia offers a unique behind-the-scenes look at how Catalonia’s landscape, culture, and people are linked to three major art movements — Fauvism, Cubism, and Surrealism — and countless literary careers. Extensive research, conducted in both French and English, reveals intimate and fascinating detail in the lives of artists and writers who found new ways to express themselves and the world around them. Through exhibition catalogs, diaries, memoirs, and personal letters between artists, their families, and their art dealers, this extraordinary guidebook brings to light the critical role this idyllic region played in the development of modern art. The Colors of Catalonia is perfect for art lovers who want to leave the crowded museums of Paris and Barcelona, visitors looking for a splendid region to discover, and art students who want to be inspired. “The Colors of Catalonia fascinates with its stories of the artists who found their inspiration there, and it beautifully captures the essence of a region for a new generation of travelers.” —Thomas Swick, A Way to See the World: From Texas to Transylvania with a Maverick Traveler
Virginie Raguenaud was born and raised in France, and her family has owned property in Catalonia for nearly half a century. Virginie’s first book, Bilingual By Choice: Raising Kids in Two (or More!) Languages, was published in 2009.

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Customer Reviews

I'm enjoying the various stories of the artists in France- I like especially some of the notes about Picasso, he was apparently a trickster, putting on outfits with beards and so on to trick friends, funny. It's well written and informative, recommended.

What an inspiring book! It makes you want to become a more engaged traveler, who takes the time to discover the history and culture of a region. It's full of anecdotes, it's lively, and it gives you the perfect art history lesson, while taking you through 17 villages in French and Spanish Catalonia. You can feel the author's passion for the region. You'll walk in the footsteps of world-famous artists like Matisse, Picasso, and Dali and get to know them at the beginning of their careers, and see how the culture and people of Catalonia influenced their ideas and techniques. I especially loved finding out more about the local artists who befriended them and how together they helped each other become more authentic in their art work. A wonderful read!

Amazing amount of interesting information about the artists that visited or lived in Catalonia. Her writing made the stories of these famous artists come alive. The writing was vivid, I could see the landscape and hear the sounds she was describing.

I like the way the book is written and its fascinating to read about all the personal connections between the artists of that time and space. On the downside, the book is really short on images. The few pix included tend to be inadequate, small, monochrome and often not that relevant to the content of the pages they appear on. Disappointing, especially for a book on art and artists!

Un livre tres interessant et qui se lit comme un roman. Il y a beaucoup d'informations qui sont des
cles supplementaires pour mieux comprendre les objectifs et travaux des nombreux artistes qui ont
ete inspires par cette belle region, des anecdotes qui donnent beaucoup de vie au livre. Le style est
fluide, enleve, il y a du ressort meme. C'est colore !! le titre est donc doublement ou triplement bien
choisi. La beaute intimement liee a la force, la puissance voire la rudesse des elements, la simplicité
et l'authenticite de la Catalogne ont contribue au foisonnement creatif qui a donne naissance a l'art
moderne. Ce livre m'a donne envie d'aller decouvrir cette belle region dans laquelle je n'ai fait que
passer quelques fois il y a bien longtemps. A very lively and interesting book written with spirit and
which reads easily like a fiction thanks to numerous anecdotes. It is full of information which are
additional clues to better understand the work and the goals of the numerous artists who found a
great inspiration in this so beautiful region between France and Spain. This book is beyond the title
really colorful. The beauty deeply rooted in the strength and the harshness of the elements, the
simplicity and the authenticity of Catalonia contributed to the creative burgeoning which gave birth to
modern art. Thanks to this book I feel like going to Catalonia and rediscover this region I passed
through too fast.

I have this book a low rating because there are absolutely no photos of the artwork that is
discussed. What a huge disappointment. How can a book called "The Colors of Catalonia" be
restricted to small black and white photos of the artists? I feel cheated. The two stars were for the
writing which was fine but could not alone convey the subject of the book.

This book is a treasure! Written like fiction, but thoroughly researched, it has wide appeal. The
author shares a peek into the personal lives of legends such as Matisse, Dali, and Picasso and the
reader comes to understand why this region has inspired so many artists. An added bonus: the
diaries of George-Daniel de Monfreid appear here for the first time in English.

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