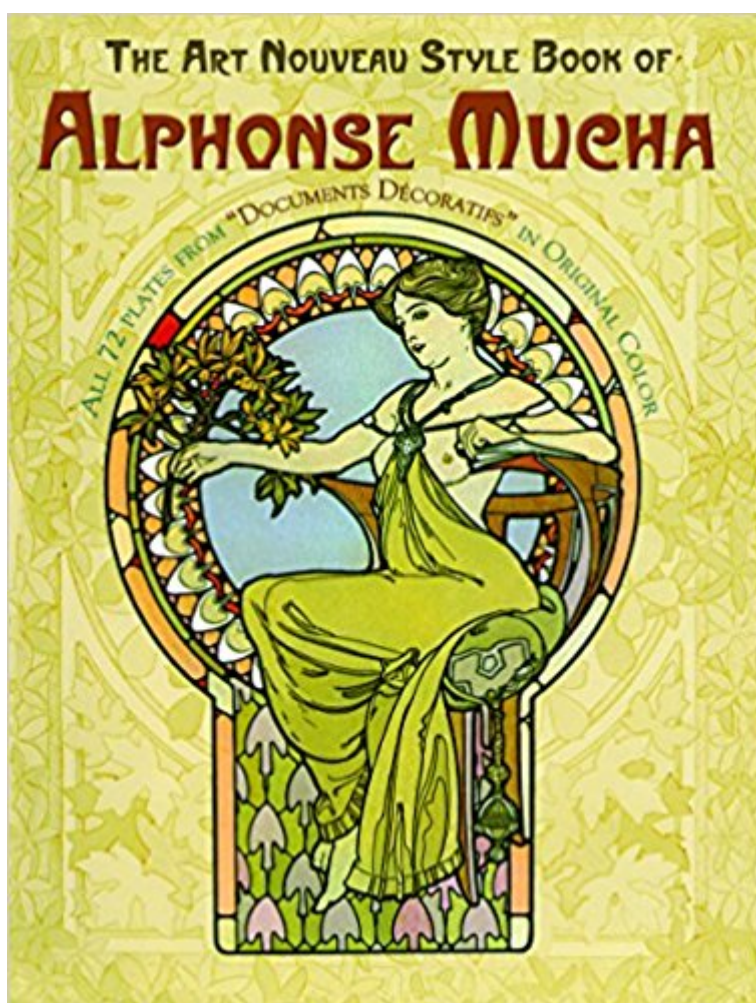


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# The Art Nouveau Style Book Of Alphonse Mucha (Dover Fine Art, History Of Art)



## Synopsis

To the general public, Alphonse Maria Mucha (1860–1939) is perhaps best known for his posters of Sarah Bernhardt and magnificent decorative panels such as "The Seasons" — works that continue to grow in popularity and value as the resurgence of interest in Art Nouveau increases. Among graphic artists and commercial designers, Mucha is praised for the innovative style books that pioneered the use of Art Nouveau in commercial packaging, design, and ornament. The most important of these style books was *Documents Décoratifs*, published in 1901 at the height of Mucha's fame as the high priest of the Art Nouveau movement. While the artist's fame rests largely on his posters, it is in the smaller works of the style books, or design portfolios, that the refinement of his technique can best be appreciated. The present volume, carefully reproduced from an extremely rare and valuable set of originals, contains all 72 plates of the *Documents Décoratifs* portfolio. Included are designs for jewelry, wallpaper, stained glass, furniture, and tableware; figure and botanical studies; and a selection of Mucha's famous *panneaux décoratifs*. Eighteen of the plates are in full color, while the remaining 54 are reproduced in two or more color tones. In addition to numerous innovative designs for practical and decorative objects, the elegant draftsmanship and meticulous execution that characterized all of Mucha's work is evident in studies of languorous nudes, portrait sketches, delicately rendered plant and animal motifs, exquisite modeling of drapery and cloth, and the flowing, fantastic forms created as experiments in pure design. In the Foreword by Gabriel Mourey, specially translated for this edition, Mucha's own philosophy of art, and the relation of the *Documents* to the rest of his work, receive an appreciative and informative discussion. Hitherto available only in scattered sources, or in the libraries of wealthy collectors, the complete *Documents Décoratifs* is now available in this inexpensive one-volume edition. Lovers of Mucha's work, admirers of Art Nouveau, and the application of that style to the decorative arts, will want to own this fine royalty-free collection by one of the greatest masters of the technique. "[*Documents Décoratifs* is] . . . an encyclopedic source for Mucha's style in every branch of decorative and applied art and one of the few books on design where even individual plates are sought after by collectors." — Marina Henderson, *The Graphic Style of Alphonse Mucha*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Text: English, French (translation)

Bought this book thinking I was going to find colorful pictures and designs. First of all it's only 70 pages. Then when I opened it I found out almost 80% of the pictures, even when they were full page, were in black and white. An overall observation is the lack of quality on the drawings and pics, they seem like washed out and lacking contrast. The book is OK for the price, especially if you are designing jewelry or clothing, I think there are better options, I would suggest *Treasury of Art Nouveau Design & Ornament* (Dover Pictorial Archive)

This book exceeded my expectations; I've fallen in love lately with these Dover books of artists' works. The full-page reproductions are top-notch and the selection creates a broad overview of the Art Nouveau/Jugendstil movement by its most famous and arguably most characteristic artist. You have Mucha himself to thank for that, as this is simply a recollection of images from his own book, though the plates are in a different order (for the purists, a chart is included referencing the pages to Mucha's original order). It's not as thorough or lavish as the definitive book *Alphonse Mucha* by Sarah Mucha, but then it's also less than half the price and much more portable. There's little enough overlap between the two that it's worth buying both, and in my opinion most of the reproductions (other than the posters) are better in this Dover book. If you're looking for a broad overview and reference of the Art Nouveau style, this Dover book is the one to get, whereas if you want a more focused look at Mucha's work and life, particularly his ornamental panels featuring Sarah Bernhardt and other women, you'll want to pick up Sarah Mucha's book (or perhaps the other Dover book, *Drawings of Mucha: 70 Works by Alphonse Maria Mucha Including 9 in Full Color.*)

I bought this book to rip out patterns and prints for inexpensive wall decorations. This book is HUGE and packed with full-page, beautiful prints. The artwork in this book is perfect for making craft and party decorations, to hang up in schools, offices and kitchens, or to scan into Photoshop for patterns, brushes, ANYTHING - the patterns and design are so intense and beautiful, there's no way not to get inspired. The quality and quantity of the work in this book is amazing, I might end up buying it twice. Keep in mind there are lots of nudes.

Any fan of Alphonse Mucha needs to have this in their library. It's got great images of finished works as well as pre-liminary sketches and works in progress. It's a lovely collection to any art appreciator's library.

GREAT

Nice quality book an introduction and than nice art. Unfortunately I didn't read all details thought I was getting color book but it is not its just a book. Nice book though if that was what you're looking for.

Alphonse how do I love you? Let me count the ways. Lol Probably my favorite era for art, architecture and jewelry. This a beautiful little book, black and white and color. It may be a slim book but for the money well worth it. By no means comprehensive but it will give you a taste of his talent.

This book is a must have for anyone who loves the art of Mucha. It is full of the plates of work used in other books by and about Mucha and his work. It has pictures of the beautiful table ware (creamers, silverware, etc.) and also of his drawings and paintings. It is a book full of beauty.

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