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American Circus Posters (Dover Fine Art, History Of Art)



Synopsis

The Children's Dream of Fairy-Land (1893) . . . Living Statues on Horseback (1890s) . . . Real Roman Hippodrome, Five Continent Menagerie (1890s) . . . Uno, Queen Supreme of the Serpent Kingdom (1894) . . . Dancing Girls, Mounted Guards and Truly Lavish Displays (1903) . . . "Twisting Double Somersault," A Feat Never Before Attempted by the Most Intrepid Aerialists (1904) . . . Desperado's Terrible Leap for Life, A Terrific Descent of 80 Feet Through Space Landing Upon His Chest on a Skid (1909) . . . The Imperial Chinese Circus Stars (1914) . . . An Army of Clowns (1920s) . . . Pallenberg's Wonder Bears (1920s) . . . Gargantua the Great (1938). Originally put in store windows and posted on sheds, barns, buildings, walls and fences, these 18 extremely rare posters, most not previously reproduced, are collected together for the first time. The quality of reproduction is superb: reproduced in full color directly from the originals, these posters have been printed in an extra large format and on coated stock so that every detail is clear. They are an exciting visual history, capturing the pageantry and color that the circus was and is. They are also extremely fine examples of almost 50 years of poster art and American advertising. There are acrobats, elephants, tigers, lions, parades, tents, trains, and many specialized acts: May Wirth, the Riding Rooneys, the Astounding Clarkonians, etc. The posters date from the 1890s to the 1940s, and include one by Norman Bel Geddes. They feature many American circuses: Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey, Sells, Sparks, Hagenbeck-Wallace. The historical introduction and captions are by Charles Philip Fox, Director of Research and Development with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

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Customer Reviews

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beautiful pictures and fast delivery

Wow, this book of circus posters is amazing! I love the old circus and needed to find good illustrations for an elaborate tattoo. I can't stop flipping through the pages. Anyone will enjoy this book!

Great vintage illustrations

was hoping for more of the sideshow/ circus freak posters. all poster were vibrant and great to look

through, lots to see. enjoyable none the less!

Bit expensive. But great pics for framing. I bought this for my baby's nursery which has a circus theme. Bit expensive.

It is indeed as represented. The posters were from "way back", and I didn't find them to have the appeal I was looking for. Someone interested in circus illustrations from that era would probably be pleased.

The years 1880-1930 were the great day of the travelling circus and its indispensable advertising adjunct, the oversize, full-color poster. Intended to catch the attention of the (often small-town or country) audience and lure it to the showgrounds, the posters here reproduced--sometimes rather overcrowded, sometimes elegantly simple--feature such classic circus elements as bareback riders, liberty horses, clowns (one poster consists of nothing but, over 20 of them in full makeup), acrobats, aerialists, daredevils (such as Mlle. Mauricia de Tires's "Auto Bolide Thrilling Dip of Death"), menageries, tableaux vivantes, street parades and Grand Marches, exotics such as presentations based on Bedouin tribal caravans or tales of the Arabian Nights, hippodrome races, and "wild" animals--elephants, lions (eight of them in one cage), tigers (eight of those, plus a black panther, under the eye of a female trainer), bears (10 brown ones or six polars, the latter appearing teamed with two great Danes and a pair of Shetland ponies), seals, the famous gorilla Gargantua the Great. There's even an act featuring no less than 16 performing housecats! Many of the posters feature the Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey show that most of us know, but there are also an assortment of others that were famous and successful in their day, such as Sells-Floto and Adam Forepaugh. Circus fans and lovers of colorful representational art will enjoy this oversize Dover volume.

As described. Frame-able, good quality reprints of posters on high quality, thicker paper. Suitable for framing if desired.

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