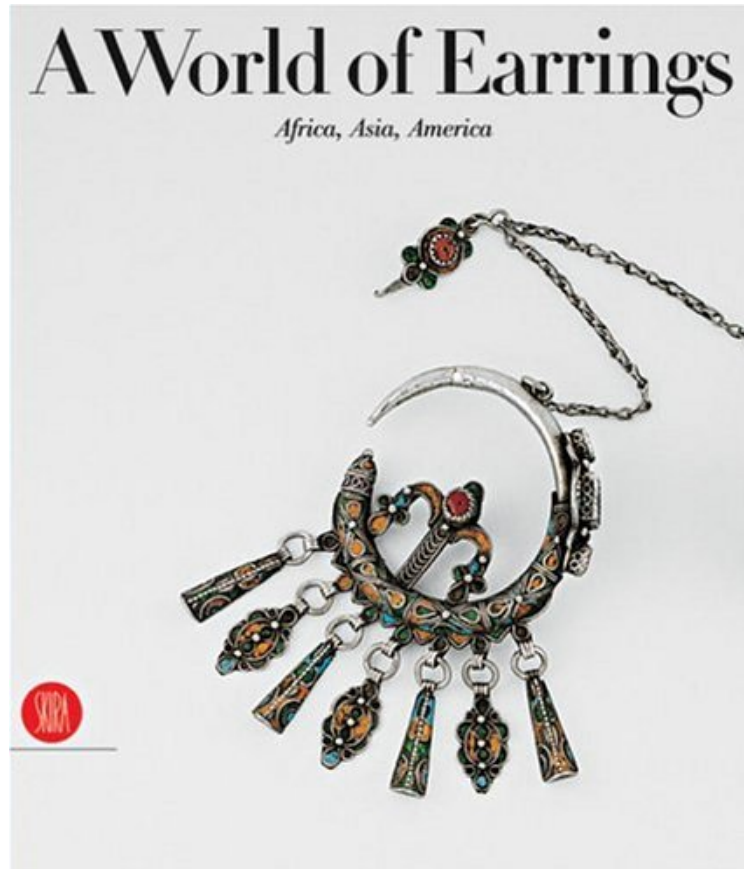


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## A World of Earrings: Africa, Asia, America (Ghysels Collection)

Anne Van Cutsem

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**Anne Van Cutsem : A World of Earrings: Africa, Asia, America (Ghysels Collection)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A World of Earrings: Africa, Asia, America (Ghysels Collection):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Emilia Cienfuegosgood!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Awesome book!By Katie AraveCrammed full of color photos of no longer used and quickly dissappearing earrings of the world! Excellant book, well worth the purchase.16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Full of inspiration for the jewelry artistBy Sharilyn M MillerI approach this book purely as an artist seeking inspiration for my own jewelry designs, and for this I give A World of Earrings five stars. The photography is beautifully clear and sharp, offering precise detail under excellent lighting. The jewelry pieces are shown quite large, allowing you to see all the details. It is true that the descriptions are placed in the back of the book, and it might be a little inconvenient for some to flip back and forth between photos and descriptions, but I actually applaud this design decision because I prefer to see the jewelry itself without distracting blocks of text. As an artist, not a jewelry historian, I have to say this book fulfills all of my expectations and is well worth the price.

This second volume of a multi-volume series on the Gbysels collection -- probably the most comprehensive and beautiful collection of ethnic jewelry in the world -- presents nearly 800 extraordinary objects, most of which have never been shown to the public before, coming from Africa, Asia and America. Since time immemorial, earrings have been a means of seduction for women. Craftsmen the world over have set their imaginations to work, using every available material. Firstly they used flowers and grass, feathers and horns, wood, shells, and ivory. Mines and alluvional deposits offered stones and metals. Bold travellers and adventurous sailors set off in search of exotic goods. Their symbolism is also rich and complex: for the Kikuyu tribe in Kenya, a person's prestige is measured by the number of ear ornaments, as long as their lobes can stand without tearing. Statues of Buddha show him with long ears. In the archipelagos of Indonesia, the suitor's family offers earrings to seal an alliance. Leather earrings with pearls are a sign of a married woman's status for Masai. In the Philippines and among the Naga headhunters, the men's hunting exploits and prowess as warriors are embodied in the jewellery they wear on their ears.