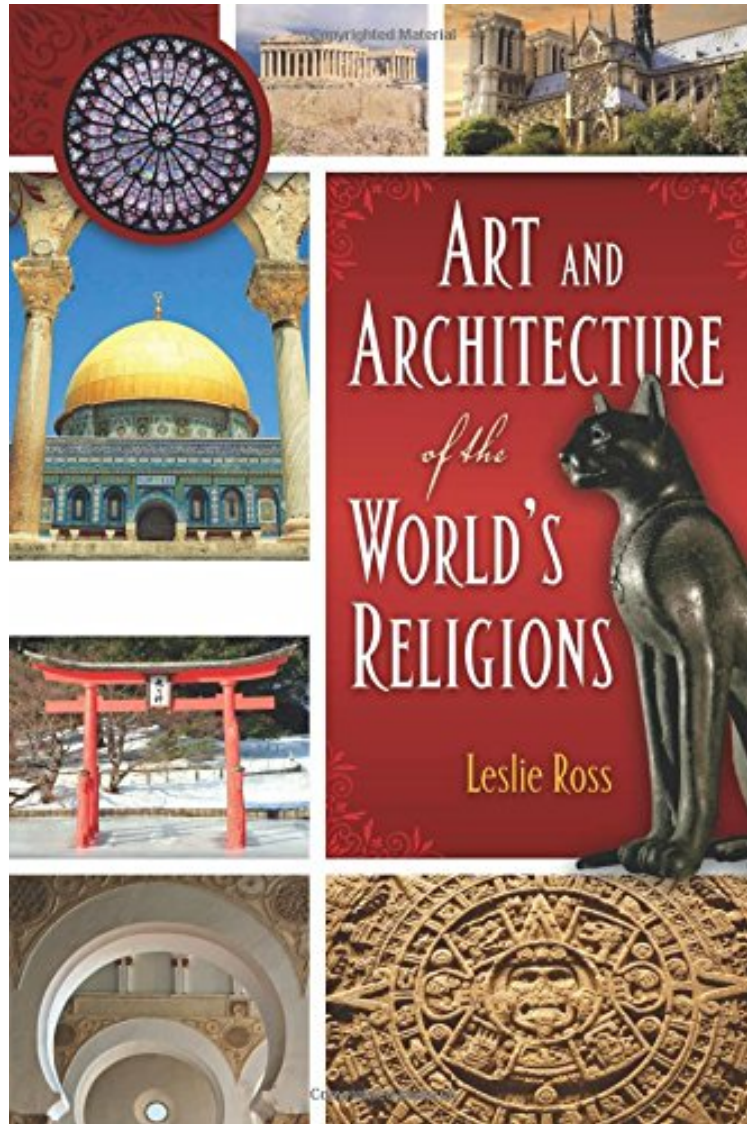


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## Art and Architecture of the World's Religions (2 Volume Set)

*Leslie D. Ross*

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**Leslie D. Ross : Art and Architecture of the World's Religions (2 Volume Set)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Art and Architecture of the World's Religions (2 Volume Set):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. reading level: university By Patricia Lothrop Certainly not age 9-12, and not even grade 9-12: these volumes are most appropriate for tertiary-level students. Eight ancient and indigenous belief-systems are covered in volume 1; Shinto and Taoism join six still-practiced sects/ philosophies in volume 2. Each chapter (around 20 pp.) introduces the religion's origins, principles, art forms, and art examples. (Jains and Sikhs

are very briefly noted under Hinduism; Sufis are just mentioned, under Islam; Zoroastrians and Baha'i are omitted.) Good scholarly apparatus (notes and bibliographies) follows chapters, with an additional general selected bibliography; the index is in volume 2 only. Despite the limitations of her print medium, Ross aims to include performative aspects of religious art. There are four pp. of color photos in each volume and many bw images (including a few floorplans), all quite small, and obviously a tiny sample of worldwide production over many millenia.

Two abundantly illustrated volumes offer a vibrant discussion of how the divine is and has been represented in art and architecture the world over. 200 illustrations, including floor plans of churches, synagogues, and temples bring the discussions of art and architecture to life An extensive bibliography enables further research

From Booklist Religion is often expressed and appreciated through art. Surprisingly, few books meld these two. Similarly, few books compare religions in terms of their creative expression. For these reasons, professor and art historian Ross set is a welcome reference work. Both volumes begin with the same introduction, which provides the scope and purposes, defines religion and religious art, and explains the importance of art in religious studies. The first volume treats ancient and indigenous religions in eight chapters covering Prehistoric Belief Systems, Religion in Ancient Egypt, Native American Religions, and more. The second volume treats the major organized religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Shinto. Each chapter runs about 25 pages in length and includes the religions origin and development, its principal beliefs and key practices, traditional art and architectural forms, and selected illustrated examples of art and architecture. The paragraphs about traditional forms explain the types of architecture associated with each religion (e.g., ziggurats, pyramids, shrines). A few specific artifacts are detailed, noting their religious and artistic significance. The art enthusiast will recognize many of the examples, but the discussion of religious aspects give them new and enriched meaning. Black-and-white photos and occasional diagrams appear on about half of the pages. Endnotes validate the statements, and an extensive bibliography guides the reader to major works about the religion and its arts. Each volume features a center eight-page spread of color plates. Only the second volume has the extensive index. Although this set cannot be considered definitive, it offers a very useful and intriguing introduction and is recommended for large public and academic libraries. Also available as an e-book. --Lesley Farmer "Written in an accessible style for high school and up, this two-volume set offers background on how the divine has been represented in art and architecture around the world." - Reference Research Book News "Ross' authoritative new work therefore stands alone in its class. Available both in print and as an e-book, it is recommended as a fine addition for all academic and art library reference shelves, virtual or otherwise." - ARBAonline "This work will probably be most appreciated at an undergraduate college or in a public library with a large interest in religion. It could also be useful to anyone looking for general information or a beginning place for information about religion, architecture, and religious artifacts." - Library Journal "Religion is often expressed and appreciated through art. Surprisingly, few books meld these two. Similarly, few books compare religions in terms of their creative expression. For these reasons, professor and art historian Ross' set is a welcome reference work. . . . Offers a very useful and intriguing introduction and is recommended for large public and academic libraries." - Booklist "This well-researched set will be useful for history/art history students and faculty, rather than general readers. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-level undergraduates and above." - Choice About the Author Leslie Ross is professor and chair of the art history program at Dominican University of California, San Rafael, CA. Her previous works include Greenwood's Medieval Art: A Topical Dictionary (1996), Text, Image, Message: Saints in Medieval Manuscript Illustrations (1994), and Artists of the Middle Ages (2003).