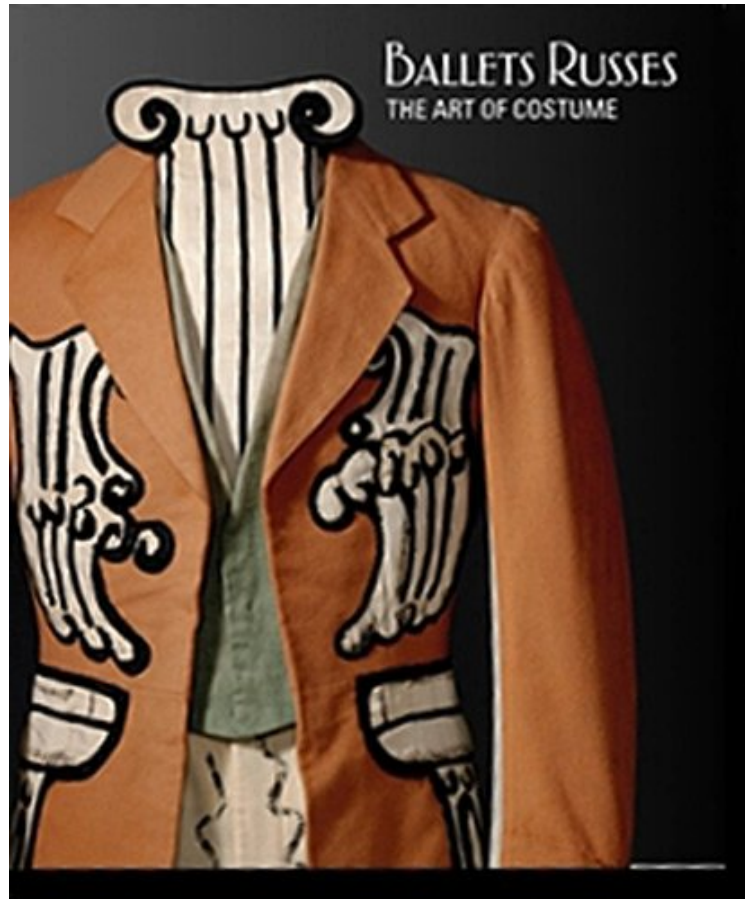


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Ballets Russes: The Art of Costume

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From National Gallery of Australia : Ballets Russes: The Art of Costume before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ballets Russes: The Art of Costume:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Extraordinary.By Andrea GrenadierI recently saw the exhibit at the National Gallery, "Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes 1909-1929: When Art Danced with Music," and this is one of the finest companion books I have ever seen offered for sale. The color plates are beautifully reproduced, and the detail is amazing. As close as you can get to the costumes at the exhibit, the lighting is kept on the dim side to protect the fabrics; seeing them in the book in all their vivid color is definitely worth the price.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Fine imagesBy KataThis book has many photos of full costumes and details of costumes which I have not seen in previous publications. It also has some interesting historical remarks on costumes and the dancers themselves.8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. I can't even describe how wonderful.By ani35This book is amazing! The detailed photos show every stitch and brush mark, which I really liked! The text is also very readable. Usually with books like these, I never read the text, but this was compelling, and went well with the photos. If I could give this book 10 stars, I would.

The Ballets Russes has engaged people for 100 years, ever since Russian-born Sergei Diaghilev created this dynamic avant-garde company. Diaghilev brought together some of the most important visual artists of the 20th century - Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Andr Derain, Robert and Sonia Delaunay, Georges Braque, Giorgio de Chirico, Natalia Goncharova and Mikhail Larionov and more - who worked as costume and stage designers with composers such as Igor Stravinsky, choreographers such as Michel Fokine, and dancers such as Vaslav Nijinsky, infusing new life and creative energy into the performing arts of the time. Premiering in Paris, the Ballets Russes, for the brief period of its existence (1909 - 29), created exotic, extravagant, and charming theatrical spectacle but also critical discussion and technical innovation, as well as exuding glamour - and often creating scandal - wherever it appeared. The costumes featured in this book are drawn entirely from the National Gallery of Australia's world-renowned collection of Ballets Russes costumes and ephemera. Through the costumes, drawings, programs and posters, the visual spectacle of the Ballets Russes is brought back into view for a contemporary audience to appreciate the revolution it was and the ongoing influence it continues to have today. This book is a must for anyone interested in the performing arts, the intersection of art and design, and costume and fashion.

"It is a stunning work, thoroughly researched and documented, and should be in any academic library supporting the study of costume, theater, dance, or 20th-century art. Summing up: Highly recommended." Choice, March 2012
About the Author Robert Bell is the senior curator of Decorative Arts and Design for the National Gallery of Australia.