



The Complete Pin-Ups

Gil Elvgren , Louis K. Meisel , Charles G. Martignette

Download now

Read Online →

The Complete Pin-Ups

Gil Elvgren , Louis K. Meisel , Charles G. Martignette

The Complete Pin-Ups Gil Elvgren , Louis K. Meisel , Charles G. Martignette

Post-depression America was in desperate need of a defining iconography that would lift it out of the black and white doldrums, and it came in the form of Gil Elvgren's Technicolor fantasies of the American dream. His technique-which earned him a reputation as "The Norman Rockwell of cheesecake"-involved photographing models and then painting them into gorgeous hyper-reality, with longer legs, more flamboyant hair and gravity-defying busts, and in the process making them the perfect moral-boosting eye-candy for every homesick private.

The Complete Pin-Ups Details

Date : Published January 1st 2008 by Taschen (first published January 1st 1999)

ISBN : 9783836503051

Author : Gil Elvgren , Louis K. Meisel , Charles G. Martignette

Format : Hardcover 272 pages

Genre : Art, Nonfiction, Adult Fiction, Erotica

 [Download The Complete Pin-Ups ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Complete Pin-Ups ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Complete Pin-Ups Gil Elvgren , Louis K. Meisel , Charles G. Martignette

From Reader Review The Complete Pin-Ups for online ebook

Carolann says

For a pictorial review of this lovely Gil Elvgren book, please visit Her Literary Salon.

Emily Andrews says

this book is meant for artists. it goes into great detail about influences and materials. as someone who was just reading it for pleasure, I wish there had been more nostalgic photos, especially with his work with coke.

Alicia says

This book is a great visual reference for any artist. I bought it when I had an "ink"ling to design a tatoos based on the nose art of my grandfather's WWII plane. He was a bomber. I didn't end up gettign the tat, but I still love the book. Great color pallette and whimsical designs.

Sarah says

I have this book on my coffee table, and everyone that comes over has to check it out! I am completely obsessed with Elvgren's pinups, they are gorgeous and timeless...I was clearly born in the wrong era!

Becky says

First of all I need to say thank you for my wonderful Other Half for getting me this gorgeous book, so 'Thank You Baby' :)

This is a typically beautiful art book from Taschen which charts the work and life of Gil Elvgren the pop artist and real life MadMen artist. His images were used to advertise everything that made up the mid 20th Century American world, everything from Cola, to war bonds to farming equipment could be found featuring one of his provocative little ladies. Usually these were painted from photographs with a model sometimes recreating the pose again and again in order to capture the correct feel, before essentially being photoshop-ed 1930's style. Everything was made perkier, and cheekier in the final image. What I hadn't noticed before is that often the same image was recreated just in a new outfit so that something very risqué with sheer lingerie etc could be toned down and used to sell vacuum cleaners to 1950's housewives. I recognise that these images are probably deeply unPC and that in many ways the naughtier ones are essentially soft porn for the ad industry, but I still really really like the Pin Up image. Like a classic screen siren, they manage to be sexy as hell while usually revealing nothing more than a stretch of bare back, or a naked shoulder. The tops of stockings have never looked so good as they do in these images! I find the gentle titillation and Monroe-esque 'who me?' style of these pictures to be deeply charming and yet highly erotically charged. The fashions shown of the 1930's-1950's are brilliant also, and it is no wonder that the Rockabilly look is so very popular

among such a large range of people.

Some of the later works from the 1960's and 70's start to get a bit of a 'Carry On' feel that removes some of the charm of the earlier images, but then both decades seem to have lost a lot of style of the past without gaining any of the equality of the modern world in my opinion anyway, so I was never going to find these later images quite as appealing.

The book contains a great biographical section discussing the life of Elvgren and his influences, which was fascinating to read.

If you like the all American Mid-West girl serving you apple pie with a cheeky pout, this is likely to appeal. Then again it will also appeal to students of advertising history, mid 20th Century popular art, Pin Ups, Burlesque and Vintage style. Pretty darn good! :)

Kitty says

My mama bought this for me last time we were at the Getty, knowing that I love vintage aesthetics and that I have a soft spot for the cheesiness of pin ups. I finally got around to reading this today and as I flipped through page after page of pretty girls, each with the same perpetually surprised look upon their faces, skirts twisted up high around their waists in increasingly improbable scenarios, I started to wonder a bit. Didn't ole' Gil EVER tire of painting the same thing every time? It's not a waste if you truly enjoy what you're doing, but looking closely at each figure, at the tumultuous play of light and shadow over limb, at that certain spontaneity of movement that gives life to a girl's character, everything so effortlessly captured on canvas, and I began to wonder what would have happened if he had ever been dedicated to painting anything else? What would he have done with his talent if he had been born much later? Painted during a different time?

And again, as I flipped through an ever increasing arsenal of poised nudes, each as bland and smiling as the next, I started to wonder about my own internalized male gaze. Before today I would have said "yes" to enjoying pin ups unapologetically, but faced with such a large number of them I have to confess I began to grow uneasy. It reminded me of how many of these images were sold because a woman's identity, image, and worth *could* be bought and sold. Today pin up culture is, for the most part, reclaimed by women who are either fashion aficionados or take heart in the relaxed attitude the women take to their own nudity (and thank goodness for all that), but what of then? I began to picture a bunch of pre-Mad Men era boys and men, viewing these images, and my skin began to crawl. I am unreservedly uncomfortable with the attitudes of this time period towards dissecting women's figures and personhood, so why has it taken me this long to realize that the artifacts that this culture has left behind in the shape of Gil Elvgren are equally uncomfortable?

I don't expect answers to these questions. It just struck me as particularly odd, that sometimes you can look and look at something, but it's not until every last bit of it is before you, when you realize how extensive something is, that you can be so utterly DONE with it before you even flip the last page.

Overall this is a very nicely put together piece of work (Taschen always puts out nice pieces!), and if you really want or have a use for every. single. painting this man every put out, you could do a lot worse. But what on earth you'd do with every single one, I couldn't even guess at. The subject does get monotonous though, so much that it sent me into a sex-istential crises before I was half way done with it. A pleasant enough distraction for those so inclined. I just happened to discover today, that I am not.

J.souza says

Beautiful collection of drawings of beautiful women, made by the master of it Gil Elvgren.

You know those classic pin-ups that you see everywhere, from tattoos to callendars? Well, probably 98% were made by Gil.

Also a great reference for illustrators like me to understand more the art of drawing beautiful ladies!

Teishabug says

I found this book in the marked down area, and I just had to have it. It is huge book with gorgeous pin-up pictures from the infamous Gil Elvgren. Although Alberto Vargas is probably the more well known of the two, Gil Elvgren was pretty much just as respected in his time.

There wasn't a whole lot of reading, it gave a nice history on Gil though. It was mainly the beautiful pin-ups that made this book. I swear, I wish I was part of this era. I still say the sexuality was just so classy.

Leelan says

Sweet, innocent and flirtatious! Elvgren was one of the best glamour artists that have ever lived. If you own a book of his art and one book of Alberto Vargas you don't really need any others.

NoBeatenPath says

A great collection of images for any fan of the pin-up and/or marketing images from the US in the middle of the 20th century. This book includes interesting essays (in English, German and French) putting Elvgren's work in context, not just in terms of his pin-ups in context with his whole out-put, but also his place in the advertising and pin-up genre of the time in general.

While it is inevitable, the appeal of the pictures actually wears off by the end of the book simply because there are just so many of them - the titillation of the stocking-top is lost when you see it for the twentieth time. But it is still amazing to think that Elvgren actually did most pictures as a photograph first (some of which are featured in this book) and could so artfully re-use the same poses for different pictures. An inspiration to artists, collectors and wannabe pin-ups alike.

T.M. says

Another birthday gift from my wife (my own private pin up). A great overview of a master artist. Not as

widely known as Vargas, I think Elvgren's got more humor, style, and humanity in his work.

Sammi says

Beautiful book!

The paintings of the women are amazing and so beautifully done.

I love looking through this book, it never gets old.

I definately appreciate art like this, truly gorgeous.

It's not, however, a typical art book as although it is filled with beautiful pin ups on every page - it also has exerpts of writing about the artist himself.

Definately a must have.

Elizabeth Amber Love says

Even though art books are specially designed to bring attention to the art itself, this hardcover includes a ton of information about Elvgren's life, his mentors, contemporaries and predecessors. It's the finest collection of Elvgren pinups. The images are organized so that you can see when he used the same source image for different paintings and in several cases the original photographs of his models are included showing a unique behind-the-scenes glimpse into his process.

Rachel says

This a great pictoral reference guide of Gil Elvgrens pin up girl art through the ages. Brilliant as an artists reference, for rockabilly chicks who want some style inspiraton, or for people who just love looking at pin up girls and admiring there cheeky beauty!

Robert Bussie says

Beautiful book with some biographical information and a lot of gorgeous art work by pin-up master Gil Elvgren.
