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Aircraft: The Jet As Art



Synopsis

Often it takes an artist to show us that the familiar is in fact truly remarkable. Jeffrey Milstein's elegant photographs of commercial airliners have quickly become contemporary icons, published in 2005 in photomagazin, Graphis Photo Annual, and American Photography 21, and winning first place in the PDN Digital Photography Contest. Milstein's meticulously composed large-format photos of airliners in flight reveal the beauty and power of these sleek, complex machines and restores some of the glamour to the experience of air travel. An eloquent foreword by Walter J. Boyne helps the reader appreciate these amazing technological wonders, and the book gives technical data on each airplane pictured. Not just for the aviation buffs but for anyone who appreciates the sublime beauty possible in even the most complex technology.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book shows the underside and a few side shots of commercial aircraft on approach to some airport in the US. Unfortunately, the author/photographer doesn't appear to be an enthusiast, and doesn't record tail numbers, location shot, airports, runways, how far from threshold, engine types, or even date of photograph. The problem, then, is that since it's not a plane nut's book, it has to be an art book. For me, it's hard to understand what, as an artist, he is trying to show about these planes. If it is about comparison, then the one-plane-per-page format doesn't really do that. Also, every image is at a different scale, so that a 747 and a Cessna Citation are shown at approximately the same size. This set of photographs would be perfect for starting to let the mind wander about flaps configuration, the number of seats across on the various body styles, the different types of

landing gear, and the concept of big metal things flying in general as you look at the vastly different silhouettes. On the other hand, if he wants to capture the feel of a plane passing overhead, then that is something that starts to happen. The elegance of the machinery is front and center in this meditative series of images. At times I was wondering just how loud it must be out there, and wanted to hold my ears as well. The crisp images really capture that moment we all want to hold - to be able to stare straight up and think about all that metal hanging over our head. However, the occasional side or front shot isn't consistent with that theme, and seems more about the plane as a canvas, which is a different idea altogether.

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