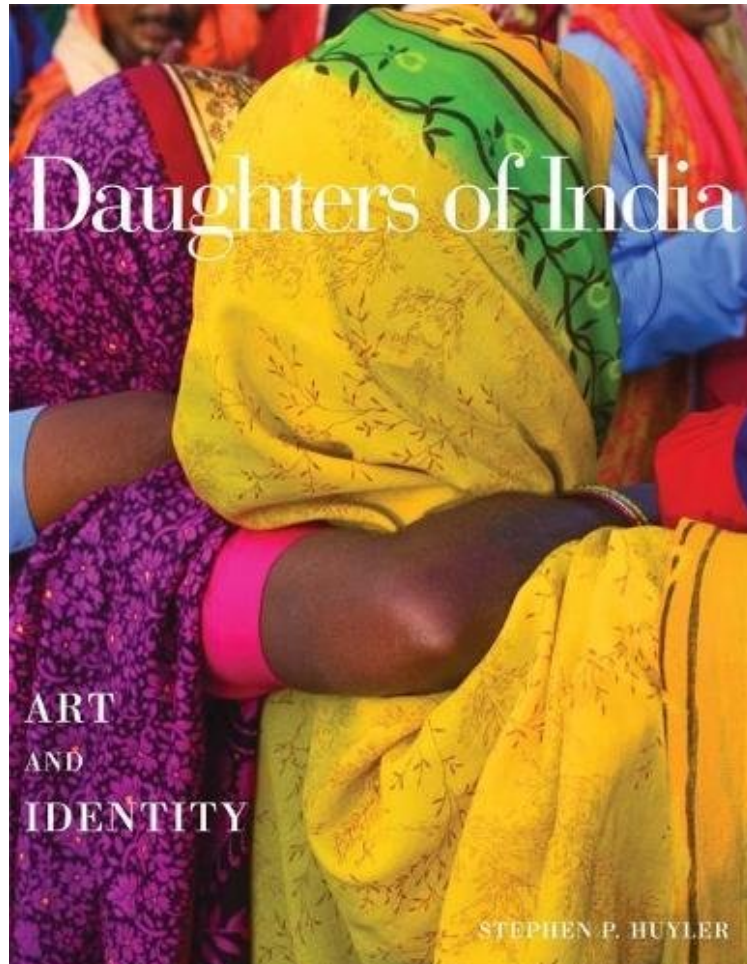


Daughters of India: Art and Identity

Stephen P. Huyler

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Stephen P. Huyler : Daughters of India: Art and Identity before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Daughters of India: Art and Identity:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. InspiringBy Isabella HenryI bought this book for my sister who is an artist/blogger/etsy shop keeper. I'd come across it at the library, with the sole intention of finding a little spark of color to pull me out of our Oregon grey, and I was swept off my feet. The photos are so beautiful! There is a picture of an elderly woman leaning against her doorway, smiling, and she is the epitome of aging gracefully. I shared this book with all my close women friends and family. I ended up buying it for my sister who at the time lived in Italy! It took all my extra money just to send it to her in time for her birthday, but It was worth it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Visually stunningBy Theo RavenThe imagery is as provocative as Mr. Huyler's deep understanding of the culture he portrays. I would recommend this book to anthropologists, artists and anyone in between.

Although one in every six women in the world lives in India, most of the Western world knows little about them. *Daughters of India* is a collection of the stories of twenty Indian women, each of whom uses creative expression as a means of empowerment. With 250 full-color illustrations, author Stephen Huyler introduces the reader to these individual Indian women and their art. He draws us into their colorful lives and inspiring achievements. Huyler seeks to dispel Western myths about the repression of Indian women, instead revealing their incredible strength and determination to improve their lives and those of their children. The varied and inspiring women's stories are simultaneously unique and unifying. From a woman preparing for her son's wedding to a leading female IT entrepreneur, and from Hindu to Christian to Muslim, the many female faces of India come alive to Huyler's audience. A portion of the proceeds from this book will benefit the Global Fund for Women, the Self-Employed Women's Association, and Folk Arts Rajasthan, as well as other organizations that work to empower women, a full list of which appears in the back of this book. To learn more about these remarkable women, please visit the book's website at daughtersofindia.com.

From Publishers Weekly: The stunning photographs of Indian women, artworks and landscapes alone make this book worth picking up, but Huyler's project is about more than beautiful images, profiling 20 Indian women who have overcome patriarchal restrictions to become entrepreneurs (often the family breadwinners), artists, anti-war protesters and software engineers. Six-year-old Padma is taught by her mother the art of kolam, a "sacred design drawn using rice flour," usually kept on the doorstep as "invocations to the gods and goddesses that are believed to protect the home." Another woman, Minhaz, captures the tension between India's Hindu and Islam cultures in her bamboo crafts; born Muslim, a faith that frowns on visual art, she was also influenced by Hindu culture, and feels that, "even though I am an Indian...I will always be an outsider." Aside from individual efforts, progress has come from above in the abolition of the dowry system in 1961, but most murder cases in India are still motivated by "an inability to keep up dowry payments." Each of the women profiled show tremendous strength, courage, intelligence and independence, making this a hopeful, colorful look at the lives of Indian women, still difficult despite important steps toward equality. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist: Cultural anthropologist, art historian, and photographer Huyler has been on a three-decade mission to document the lives and work of Indian women artists. In his latest instructive and affecting book, he profiles 20 creative Indian women from various backgrounds and regions for whom art has been the key to overcoming myriad obstacles. The stories of their lives are wrenching and remarkable as women of all ages and predicaments grasp new freedom by taking charge of ancient artistic traditions, from embroidery to painting. Huyler's rapport with his subjects is evident in the warm smiles his camera captures in gracefully composed photographs of the artists at work. Here are women making kolam, intricate devotional designs drawn each day with rice flour; an activist artist in West Bengal; and Sonabai, a long isolated, now celebrated self-taught sculptor in Chhatisgarh. Once the elaborate and soulful art these women make is seen and valued, so, too, are they. Huyler's sensitive portraits provide evocative testimony to the persistence of creativity in even the starkest circumstances. --Donna Seaman

About the Author: Stephen P. Huyler is an art historian, cultural anthropologist, photographer, and author conducting a lifelong survey of India's art and crafts and their meanings within rural societies. Huyler received a B.A. in Indian Studies at the University of Denver and a doctorate at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies.