

Synopsis

The Handbook of Tibetan Buddhist Symbols is a portal into the rich, multifaceted, and profound symbolism of Tibetan sacred art. Robert Beer provides a deep and encompassing insight into the vast array of symbols and attributes that appear within the complex iconography of Tibetan Buddhism. The succinct descriptions that accompany his detailed line drawings reveal the origins, meanings, and functions of these symbols. Beer unravels the multiple layers of symbolism and meaning contained within the iconography, affording the reader a panoramic vision into the deeper dimensions of this sacred art. Drawn largely from Beer's monumental work *The Encyclopedia of Tibetan Symbols and Motifs*, the meticulous brush drawings in this book depict all of the major Buddhist symbols and motifs, including the various groups of auspicious symbols; cosmological symbols; natural and mythical animals, such as the dragon, garuda, and makara; the entire assembly of ritual tantric implements and weapons; magical and wrathful symbols; handheld emblems, attributes, and plants; esoteric Vajrayana offerings; and mudras, or ritual hand gestures.

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Customer Reviews

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meaning contained within the iconography, affording the reader a panoramic vision into the deeper dimensions of this sacred art. Drawn largely from Beer's monumental work "The Encyclopedia of Tibetan Symbols and Motifs, the meticulous brush drawings in this book depict all of the major Buddhist symbols and motifs, including the various groups of auspicious symbols; cosmological symbols; natural and mythical animals, such as the dragon, "garuda, and "makara; the entire assembly of ritual tantric implements and weapons; magical and wrathful symbols; hand-held emblems, attributes, and plants; esoteric Vajrayana offerings; and "mudras, or ritual hand gestures.

Robert Beer has studied and practiced Tibetan thangka painting for thirty years, including five years of study with master artists Jampa of Dharamsala and Khamtrã I Rinpoche of Tashijong. Beer is one of the first Westerners to become actively involved in this art form. Over the last two decades he has concentrated on an extensive series of iconographical drawings depicting the major deities, lineage holders, and symbols that occur in the spectrum of Tibetan art.

This Handbook is an excellent reference book, handsomely published by Shambhala, and affordable. BUT...do not confuse this with Beer's Encyclopedia of Tibetan Buddhist Symbols and Motifs. This Handbook is NOT a paperback version of the Encyclopedia. The 400-page Encyclopedia goes into more detail, has additional text, and provides the reader with many, many more pages of drawings. I confused the two and thought I would save some money by buying the paperbound. Nope, it's a much abridged version. If you can afford the Encyclopedia, it is well worth 's price.

Beer is a genius of Tibetan symbolism and a master of the art. If Tibetan art is a passion of yours, or you are an aspiring Buddhist this is a must for you. He also published a larger hardcover volume which this was adapted from. The hardcover book is much more comprehensive, larger and quite beautiful. The quality of printing is excellent. Beers ability to replicate the repetitive images is almost robotic and mind blowing in his precision. Just look at the rolling waves or cloud formations..for pen and ink drawings that are vibrant and alive on the page. The essence of Tibetan Buddhist multiverse perception. It is infinitely enjoyable and informative as he defines all of the images meanings and the essence of what they evoke. Just looking at his drawings evokes a peaceful, meditative and introspective experience. For a student or artist studying Buddhism or just art, this will educate and enthrall. It gives definitive meaning and helps clarify the imagery in one volume unlike any other writings i have found. I do recommend this book as well as the larger

comprehensive volume..also available on . Om mani padme hum.

This revised edition of Beer's compilation of Tibetan symbols is indispensable as a student of Tibetan studies. Although I am not focused religion, the iconography of religious figures and themes comes up often enough that I had extensively relied on Google previews of the book and finally decided to buy a copy and save myself the screen time. The Handbook is a little better organized and has more of the material that I need compared to the earlier Encyclopedia. Beer's images are clear and show a considerable amount of the possible variety, much easier to learn to recognize form than in the complexities of fully colored thangka. In terms of just needed a simple answer and enough background to start understanding and researching elements of iconography this book is the perfect launching point. The book is made with nice paper and the illustrations are nice and clear. Shipping with Prime was great.

Awesome book that's enjoyable and informative. As a practitioner it brings new depth and understanding to visualizations and practices as well as bring up lots of "Oh that's what that represents." I wondered why Rinpoche was packing that thing around. Thangka's, ritual items, gestures, art and other mediums come alive vibrant and enriching having gained a fuller understanding of the meaning, intent and purposes. Hat's off to Robert for sharing your wealth of knowledge and skill with us!

This book is absolutely amazing from a reference point and helped me to learn about Tibetan Buddhism itself as much as I learned about the symbols. Fascinated, beautifully represented, and clearly the product of years of research.

The obvious commitment and care that went into the creation of this book is outstanding. It contains beautifully drawn artwork and is full of information and wisdom presented in a very engaging way. The glossary is truly helpful. More than a list of page numbers, it is a clear, concise explanation of important Buddhist concepts. What a generous gift Robert Beer has offered us! Thank you.

What a thoroughly helpful volume this is! I love Robert Beers work and his exactitude in descriptions has given me a peek at the depth of symbolism contained within Tibetan Buddhist art. I can tell this will be useful as I continue to learn and practice. Thank you!

While not totally comprehensive, it is like a light encyclopedia of the symbols and tools used in Tibetan Buddhism, excellent for the curious, newcomers and long time Buddhists alike.

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