

ambassadors, bringing their aesthetic traditions into fruitful interaction with contemporary American trends and forging ties with artists, scholars, museums, and collectors. This is the first integrated history of innovative visual experimentation and pioneering cultural patronage. From the early 1950s, Japanese printmakers achieved great success at international art exhibitions sponsored by the American and Japanese governments.

The prints in this book range from woodcut, stencil, lithography, etching, mezzotint, aquatint, and screenprint. Includes 85 color plates, biographies of the artists.

Botánica Los Angeles: Latino Popular Religious Art in the City of Angeles by Patrick Arthur Polk (Los Angeles, UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History dist. by University of Washington Press, 2005, \$30.00 paper) advances the mission of the Fowler Museum to explore religious systems, especially investigating the

ways in which ritual and devotion have been defined and assisted by special categories of objects that emphasize the interlinking of aesthetic choices and religious effects. With 135 color illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography and an index, this exceptional catalog documents an exhibition which required a team of people to realize this survey of botánicas which have emerged as one of the most frequent purveyors of sacramental items in Southern California.

Venues are explored not only for their fascination, but also for their role in transmitting, transforming and critiquing traditional faiths. The botánica has come to combine a spiritual center, religious supply house, and alternate healthcare facility, generally associated with folk Catholicism and other Latin American religious traditions. The photographs are vivid, the essays are full of good scholarship and descriptions of these sites noted for their artistry, ceremonial activity and community building.



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