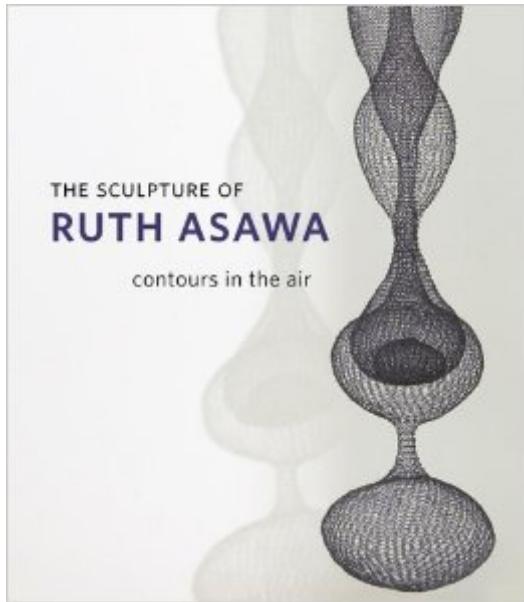


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The Sculpture Of Ruth Asawa: Contours In The Air



Synopsis

The scope and stature of Ruth Asawa's work are brought into brilliant focus in this superb book, created to accompany the first complete retrospective of the artist's career. Beginning with her earliest works—drawings and paintings created in the 1940s while studying at Black Mountain College; this beautifully illustrated volume traces Asawa's trajectory as a pioneering modernist sculptor who is recognized nationally for her wire sculpture, public commissions, and activism in education and the arts. The Sculpture of Ruth Asawa establishes the importance of Asawa's work within the larger national context of artists who redefined art as a way of thinking and acting in the world rather than as merely a stylistic practice. A chronology and a collection of essays by noted scholars highlight Asawa's complex relationship to American art and Asian American history and provide engrossing biographical information. In her lifelong experimentations with wire, especially its capacity to balance open and closed forms, Asawa invented a powerful new vocabulary. Committed to enhancing the quality of daily life through art produced within the home, she contributed a unique perspective to the formal explorations of twentieth-century abstract sculpture. Working in a variety of non-traditional media, Asawa performed a series of uncanny metamorphoses, leading viewers into a deeper awareness of natural forms by revealing their structural properties. Through her artistic practice, Asawa reconnects with the Buddhist ethos of her parents, transforming the commonplace into metaphors for life processes themselves. Essays by Daniell Cornell, Emily Doman, Mary Emma Harris, Karin Higa, Jacqueline Hoefer, John Kriedler, Susan Stauter, and Sally Woodbridge Copub: Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

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Customer Reviews

It's a book that really deserves a place in whatever room you sit in to relax and spend your quiet time. I see many art mediums - including wire - in a whole new way, and that is just what I look for in a book of art. Definitely one of my best book purchases in the past year.

I saw the Ruth Asawa exhibit at the De Young Museum (in 2007?) and was in awe of the work itself -- especially the hanging wire sculptures and wall wire sculptures -- and of the long devotion that the artist had to her work and to arts education. This book was written to coincide with the De Young show. It is well written, but what really makes it wonderful to look at are the photos of the sculptures and paintings. I have pulled this book off the shelf many times to gaze at Asawa's art on the pages of this book. It is one of those books that one returns to often.

This is a splendid book about an amazing artist and her work and family. She has done very unusual sculptures that have endured stylistically for decades. She and her family are arts advocates and have made a significant contribution to the arts in California. The book is wonderful!

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