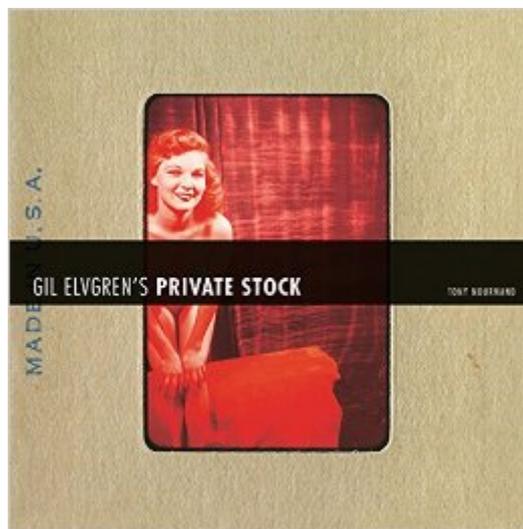


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Gil Elvgren's Private Stock



Synopsis

An immensely talented artist who enjoyed a prolific career, Gil Elvgren (1914–1980) was a master of the portrayal of the female form and one of the greatest maestros of the illustrated pin-up to have ever lived. Elvgren often painted from his own photographs, and the well-known images that exist of his models are from the middle and later period of his career--the 1950s onwards--and are generally always photographs of girls wearing, at least, a generous covering of lingerie. Collated here for the first time is Elvgren's personal nude slide collection, previously only known to a handful of niche collectors. Still housed in original Realist slide boxes carrying Elvgren's bold, early signature in large letters, the slides are a mix of stereoscopic 3D slides and regular 35mm. Although a few date into the 1960s, the vast majority relate to the early period of Elvgren's career, from the 1940s to the early 1950s; a period when he was producing a greater volume of nude paintings and also honing his personal style. This fascinating and unique volume reproduces the images in stunning quality and is the lasting legacy of Elvgren's slide collection. It builds a more complete picture of his artistic process and it offers a valuable insight into the development of glamour photography. However, its real beauty and impact lies in the knowledge that one of the greatest masters of the illustrated pin-up took his inspiration from the very real flesh of womanly curves in all of their natural glory.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It is a great and interesting bit of Gil Elvgren's "Private Stock ". The only imperfect thing about it is

that I wish some of the photos were larger. Just in case you are unaware of who Gil Elvgren is and what he does and what his "Private Stock" is, here is some further information. In the era of great illustrators, which began fading because of the camera, along with Norman Rockwell, J. C. Leyendecker, Haddon Sundblom and the more serious book illustrators such as Dean Cornwell/Pruett Carter Mead Schaeffer, Walt Everett and any others Elvgren focused on lovely, innocent (and some not so innocent), female nudes often in whimsical situations. Elvgren's work was mostly advertising, calendars, and whimsical magazine art, along with some book and other forms of pinup work. All of those I mention above did much the same thing but they did far more serious art, closer to and often art superior to that shown in art galleries as "fine art" in that era, in which mastery of excellence in figurative art belonged to illustrators many of which in the coming years became some of the best fine artists in America. Elvgren worked mostly from live models and photos taken either by him or professional photographers under his direction for poses. His "Private Stock" is an array of literally hundreds of photos of nudes and semi-nudes, some gorgeously and bountifully endowed with female anatomical giftedness as well as others with the same degree of figurative perfection, but perhaps in need of his skills of turning a less than lovely face into that of a post-teen age beauty.

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