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## Jeweled Bugs and Butterflies

**Marilyn Nissenson, Susan Jonas : Jeweled Bugs and Butterflies** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jeweled Bugs and Butterflies:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not worth the priceBy ShuShu19I am absolutely obsessed with butterflies! I have been studying the prices of this particular book for over two years, and finally found the best deal. It arrived in good condition, however, be warned it is very small...not a coffee table book, not even close. For the price I was expecting much more. It is thin, minimal pages, and only about 5-6" both tall and wide. Pretty though.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. wowBy Customerloved it thank you0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy LABBEbeautiful book, very documented!

With more than 150 fanciful creations on display in dazzling color photographs, more than half of which are shown here for the first time. With a whimsical text that presents remarkable facts and lore about insects in the natural world.

.com Tarantulas may be creepy, but not when they're made of gold, diamonds, and jewel-toned enamel. Wasps, beetles, flies, and bees have all perched on stylish lapels with never so much as a nervous swipe in their direction. The history of jewelry based on insects dates back to the scarabs (dung beetles) of ancient Egypt, worn as amulets for protection in the afterlife. But it wasn't until the advent of art nouveau at the turn of the 20th century that insect life began to buzz through the fashion world in a big way. Some of the loveliest pieces in Jeweled Bugs and Butterflies are the work of Ren Lalique, a French artist whose childhood was spent sketching butterflies, wasps, bumblebees, and beetles. He combined a knack for heady atmospheric detail (gold beetles scattered on a carved horn "fern," a blue glass bee poised on an abalone shell "lily") with such brilliant enamel techniques as plique--jour, a method of suspending

enamel between soldered wires to create areas of translucent color. Larded with 127 color illustrations of fabulous--often witty, sometimes over-the-top--bug jewelry, this little gem of a book also offers a sober introduction to the real insect kingdom. There are 750,000 species of these hardy creatures, which adapt themselves to extremes of climate and location, and have proven to be invaluable allies to humans as well as pests. But to date none have joined forces with the sinuous gold female figures of the art nouveau craftsmen: winged images of sex and death that remain one of the most original jewelry motifs. --Cathy Curtis

From Booklist

There is something about insects in art that simultaneously attracts and repels--seductive because of the beauty and aesthetic interpretations, disgusting due to their natural beings. Here, colleagues Nissenson and Jonas (collaborators on *Cuff Links* [1991], among other art books) have chosen more than 150 of the best-jeweled examples and written a minimalistic text to explain and allure. Their book starts with scarabs from the Tomb of Amenemope and ends with contemporary bugs, beetles, and flying creatures. At the height of luxury are the Art Nouveau photographs, picturing museum-quality objects from Rene Lalique, Louis Comfort Tiffany, and the famed like. All are well labeled, with date, materials, artist, size, and ownership. Enough glitz and glamour for even the most jaded of collectors to be bedazzled. Barbara Jacobs

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