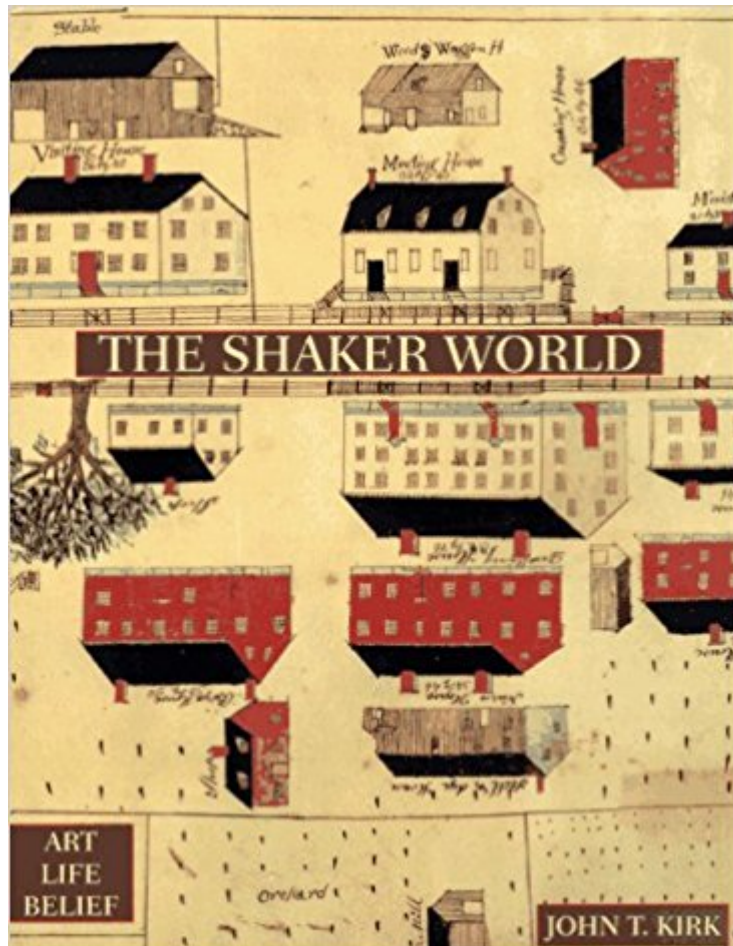




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The Shaker World



Synopsis

In this groundbreaking study, art historian John T. Kirk casts new light on the Shakers, describing how their beliefs, religious practices, and daily life have influenced all of their arts. Using previously unpublished documents, Kirk gives voice and presence to these remarkable people and breathes life into their world. 277 illustrations, 82 in full color.

Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: Harry N Abrams; First Edition edition (September 1, 1997)

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Customer Reviews

Enthusiasts of American cultural history will be thrilled to get their hands on this book by art historian, lecturer, and cabinetmaker John T. Kirk. The Shakers, living in self-contained religious communities since the late 18th century, have been constant producers of American decorative art. Through documents, diaries, letters, and photographs, Kirk gives a complete study of the evolution of Shaker religious beliefs and practices, and the art and furniture produced. The weight of the type is weak, making the tall columns of densely packed type hard to read, and some of the illustrations are muddy. But the book is rich in information and complete in its examination of the subject.

I've had my head in this book for the past few weeks. It is a decent overview of most aspects of the Shakers. I especially enjoyed reading about how color was used by the Shakers. I disagree with the parallels the author tries to draw between the Shaker aesthetic and Donald Judd (a bit of a stretch), but I'm glad this was included as it threw me on a meaningful trajectory. Illustrations a plenty and relevant that are all well keyed to the text. I also got this for an obscenely low purchase price--a bit depressing, but reading through the book makes up for it.

An excellent overview of the Shaker communities in America.

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