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Cyclepedia: A Century Of Iconic Bicycle Design



Synopsis

For every way to ride, there's a bicycle to fit the need. An homage to the beauty of the bike, Cyclepedia showcases the innovations and legacies of bicycle design over the past century. Join longtime bike enthusiast and avid collector Michael Embacher for a tour of 100 bicycles, from the finest racing bikes and high-tech hybrids to the bizarrely specific (such as a bike designed to cycle on ice). Captivating photographs, detailed component lists, and anecdotal information illuminate the details that make each bicycle unique. Also including a foreword by cyclist and designer Paul Smith, Cyclepedia is the ultimate coffee-table book for devotees of the two-wheeled life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Equal parts illuminating and aesthetically transfixing, Cyclepedia: A Century of Iconic Bicycle Design is bound to tickle your curiosity, quench your design eye, and make your hands itch for the handlebars." -BrainPickings
"From the sleek to the strange to the truly innovative, 100 detailed bike profiles will captivate cycle aficionados." - Fast Company
"Even if you've never picked up a surfboard, Ghost Wave will propel you to one of the most dramatic spots on Earth." - Scientific America, Book Club selection

Michael Embacher is a designer who lives in Vienna. He boasts one of the world's greatest collections of bicycles. Paul Smith is a world-famous designer and a passionate cyclist.

There's almost two halves to this book. The first half contains excellent photos and descriptions of very cool well thought out and built bikes which are fascinating. I will look at this half now and then. Suddenly there are pictures/descriptions of folding bikes which are cool but it goes on and on with the folding bikes. Seriously how many folding bikes can you look at?

If you like to look at interesting & unusual bicycles this book is an outstanding value. The pictures are crisp studio portraits, several of which are poster-quality. This is an important record of bicycle innovation and an important addition to the library of any serious enthusiast. This book is a catalog of the author's personal collection of idiosyncratic 20th century bicycles. It is the only catalog of any bicycle collection currently available. The table of contents lists 97 bicycles. It is not a historic collection so much as a collection of 20th century bicycles; 71 of them are after 1976. The oldest bike is 1922, three are from the 1920s, five from the 1930s and five from the 1940s. The bike collection lists 38 racing (including 2 Cinellis, a Kestrel, and breath-taking Sabliere and Bianchi C-4 pages) 26 "urban", 24 unusual folding, 19 touring (which includes 2 Herse bikes and a Baines), 5 mountain bikes, 4 tandems. 2 cargo and 35 what it describes as "curiosity" bicycles, which include bicycles with spring frames, shaft drives and a 1996 two-wheel drive, to name a few. The collection is a catalog of the variety of human ingenuity developing different braking, gearing and frame designs. The photographs are high quality close-ups. The book emphasis is on the collection. The sometimes awkwardly translated text is casual and unfootnoted, like a museum display pointing out interesting details about the bikes rather than details about history. This is the second catalog of the Embacher collection. The first one was *Smart Move- Bicycles From the Embacher Collection* which was published in 2007 which had 48 bicycles. Cyclepedia has 97 bicycles, 41 of which are in Smart Move and is more affordable. This catalogue is one of few bicycle collection catalogues ever published and is the only one in print.

"Cyclepedia " is a collection of different bicycles from different decades and countries. It's a nice book, good quality paper, good images and enough information. I did not "love it", but that's because I didn't like all of the bicycles shown. But that's a personal view. I enjoyed studying the details of each one of them; there's a lot I've never seen before. Long story short; if you are a bike advocate or product designer, you will be more than happy with it. Go for it!

I saw Cyclepedia when it was at the Portland Art Museum. I've enjoyed the opportunity to revisit, in greater detail, the bikes featured at Cyclepedia. There seem to be lots of books of the "101 Bikes

That Changed The World" genre. I've read a few, this is my current favorite.

We used this as a wedding guestbook and couldn't be happier! It now is prominently displayed in our living room as a coffee table book. It's a great size, the pictures are fantastic, and the descriptions are well written for cycling nerds like my wife and me.

My wife loves bicycles and is a designer by trade. She loves it! It is well thought out, the pictures are great, and the designs are fascinating. If you are a bicycle lover this is a must for your coffee table.

Wonderful book, very interesting topic and fantastic pix!

The traditional diamond design bicycle frame in alloy steel has dominated the bicycle market for a century-and-a-half, but other designs have been attempted with various levels of success. Michael Embacher covers a huge collection of eclectic forms, shapes, and materials. Clean studio photos, from many angles, show the iconic details and give real perspective to these beautiful machines.

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