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Margaret Mee's : The Diaries Of An Artist Explorer



Synopsis

For thirty-two years, the artist Margaret Mee was enchanted by and lured back again and again to the massive, unpredictable and fertile rainforests of as. Her initial objective, to search out and illustrate the glorious flora growing in the tree canopies and along the innumerable waterways of the great rivers of the basin, was later combined with a growing concern at the commercial plunder of the great forests. Her first expedition to as was in 1956 and it was then that she began to keep the diaries that, along with her paintings, drawings and sketches, make up this book. Although plant hunting always came first whenever possible and practical, other events often took over. A small dug-out canoe could become a waterlogged, if not dangerous, place to be; rapids had to be got through; recalcitrant boatmen were gently or sternly coerced; drunken prospectors were held off with a revolver. She was fascinated by the rich mix of Brazilians she came across and often lived with for a tim

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

British botanical artist and explorer Margaret Mee (1909-88) recorded her observations with pen and brush. Like a great plant explorer, Mee had a profound affinity for the place, its plants, and its people. In this munificent volume, her graceful and exquisitely detailed paintings of flora and fauna, works that combine both science and art, are accompanied by photographs and her extensive travel journals. Filled with botanical information and tales of adventure and hardship--including boat trouble, feuds, getting lost, and being bitten so fiercely by insects that her eyes swelled shut and she had to wrap her hands in plastic--Mee's travelogues are as riveting as her paintings are beautiful.

Margaret Mee was born in Chesham, Buckinghamshire in 1909. She died tragically in a road accident in Leicestershire in 1988. For more than 35 years she had lived in Brazil with her husband. Soon after her death her name was added to the World Wide Fund for Nature, International Conservation Roll of Honour.

This book is an impressive description of an artist's best: her watercolor descriptions of the flowers. Nobody has done it better. It describes her trips through years and rivers as well as her determination in painting the moonflower, which is beautifully printed in the last pages of the book. You can think that she has lived to find this flower. It is sad to see that after so many adventures in the jungle, she died so stupidly in London.

Beautiful book. Ms. Mee's story is remarkable. A true 20th century explorer. Part of a dying breed as we are running out of flora and fauna to discover/explore. Now I need to finish reading it!

Beautiful book. Very engaging narrative.

Just spectacular.

I have read another book by Margaret Mee and must confess to being fascinated by her life story. Her life was one of which most of us will only glimpse from our armchairs. But most wonderful of all are her beautiful botanical drawings. This book provides a real gateway into another world.

At once an art, adventure, and biography, MARGARET MEE'S : DIARIES OF AN ARTIST EXPLORER is profiled here for its simply gorgeous pages packed with botanical illustration and photos. Unlike most illustration titles, however, MARGARET MEE'S isn't just a photo or illustration catalog, but an in-depth survey blending her amazing drawings with accounts of her thirty-two years of expeditions into the rainforest. Her first expedition to as was in 1956, where she began the diaries and sketchbooks which comprise this title. From vivid accounts of plant-collecting expeditions to the exhibition of her paintings at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew (who work with Antique Collector's Club in producing this title, this is a definitive, outstanding piece holding wide-ranging interest and recommendation from art library holdings to botany collections, natural

history holdings, and even the general-interest public library collection.

Margaret Mee was an amazing woman and her work is exquisite. This book is perfect because it shows a great part of Mee's work in her own words, with beautiful illustrations and photographs. It's a book to look and read all the time.

Passionately written and superbly illustrated; a must have for the tropical aficionado's library and the tropical gardener and botanist

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