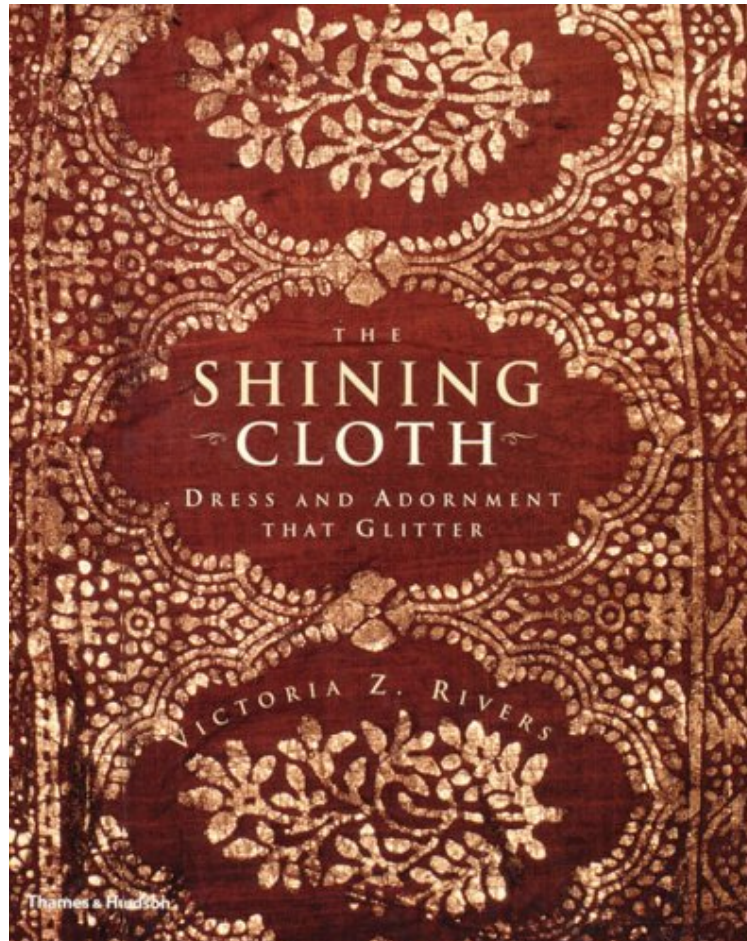


The Shining Cloth: Dress and Adornment That Glitters

Victoria Z. Rivers

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Victoria Z. Rivers : The Shining Cloth: Dress and Adornment That Glitters before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Shining Cloth: Dress and Adornment That Glitters*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Shining Example of BeautyBy LKPThis book was highly recommended to me by a fellow artist who is knowledgeable about textiles, History of Costume, and other kindred topics. She said emphatically: "You've got to have this book." Happily, I followed her advice. It is one of the most inspiring books in my art library. It provides an overview of many diverse cultures, and the wide-ranging definition/interpretation of "shining" adds to the delight. The photos are stunning and illuminating. I was so baffled by one of the other reviews, citing a belief that this book is somehow intolerant, I felt I had to add my words of praise for one of the most beautiful books in my art library. It is about the universal language of beauty and craftsmanship - surely that topic is universal. I just got additional copies of this book for other artists as holiday gifts because I want to keep spreading the word. 21 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Still Amazed at Shining ClothBy Elaine

CornA hobbyist's interest in textiles, sewing and garb drew me into the mysterious worlds presented in this fascinating and unique book. I am not a textiles professional, but I am able to appreciate it in many forms, whether tribal or ethnic, European, or the latest molecular likeness from DuPont. Dismissed by some as a "coffee table" book, The Shining Cloth actually is on my coffee table, where it has lain since its publication. Friends leaf through its wondrous pages, the unknown surfacing in unfathomable meaning from weave, creative decorations, the illustrious imagination that calls on a feather, a gold thread, some beads, and yes, a reflective dot, as a kind of speechless communication. I learned from The Shining Cloth of the metals used for reflection before the advent of the common mirror. Indigo and various dye from nature created signature fabric and design. Such explanations have parallels in my specialty -- food -- that is, people everywhere survive in ingenious ways. Tribal peoples continue even today an unshakeable superstitious dread of what their ancestors called the "evil eye." That their strategy for security could be the armour formed by the industrious and loving construction of a sparkling piece of clothing might have softened a terrifying life or added beauty to a bleak one. The entire subject begs inquiry and demands respect. Ms. Rivers' research certainly got my attention. 15 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Shining Cloth Awarded Outstanding Academic Title By VZ Rivers The Shining Cloth is selling extremely well around the world. The book has received numerous positive reviews in prestigious publications such as Hali (London); Textile Fiber Forum (Australia); The Textile Society of Hong Kong; Fibre (UK); American Craft (New York); Fiberarts (USA); Surface Design Journal (USA); and others. It was recently awarded Outstanding Academic Title by Choice Publications. The purpose of the book is to allow the reader to think deeply and widely about the diverse forms, uses and meanings of light-reflecting substances. The subject matter is inclusive of culturally and economically diverse creative expressions while celebrating innovation, ingenuity and skill. Lastly, the book focuses on areas of textiles and dress that have received less exposure, in order to broaden knowledge in the field. The Shining Cloth is the first book to explore the wider subject of shimmering materials in textiles, so it functions as an excellent scholarly reference, bibliography, and beautiful book to savor for years. I hope you will enjoy the book as much as I enjoyed researching and writing it over the past 14 years. Best regards, the author

"An encyclopedic array of dazzling garments, accessories, and objects.... The book is a work of art in itself." Surface Design Embellishment with glittering substances is a worldwide and ancient practice. Traces of textiles and other artifacts embroidered and embellished with gold were depicted in Assyrian bas-reliefs, frozen in the tombs of the Scythian nomadic horsemen, unearthed with the treasures of the Pharaohs, and preserved in the burials of Andean cultures' high priests and nobles. Cloth may glitter or shine because of its own lustrous qualities, as is the case with silk, or with the help of special treatments and dyes. Materials such as metals, sequins, beads, or mirrors may be used to embellish fabrics as decoration or to attract or deflect spirits in unseen worlds. Gifts from nature can also be cleverly manipulated into shapes and pieces to simulate more precious materials: for example, the iridescent elytra of beetles reflect brilliant metallic greens and violets as if they were gems. Today these marvelous creations have gained an additional appeal beyond our fascination for lost and traditional civilizations?their visual verve makes them a fertile source of ideas in contemporary fashion and decoration. Victoria Rivers has spent more than a decade in the search for the most spectacular examples of a universally appealing phenomenon. Combining her artist's eye with an in-depth knowledge of textile techniques, she draws on an extraordinary array of specialist anthropological research from all over the world. Sumptuously illustrated and superbly designed, this odyssey through the world's cultures will captivate those concerned with contemporary fashion and textile history as well as anyone interested in symbol and ritual in traditional societies. Illustrated throughout

"An encyclopaedic array of dazzling garments, accessories, and objects....The book is a work of art in itself." "A hypnotic look at cultures around the world through the history of their textiles as well as their contemporary fashions, symbols, and ceremonial practices....This is a book for anyone who has ever coveted beautiful fabrics or lost his or her heart to a camel saddle or a spectacular Indian sari." About the Author Victoria Rivers is Professor in the Department of Environmental Design at the University of California, Davis.