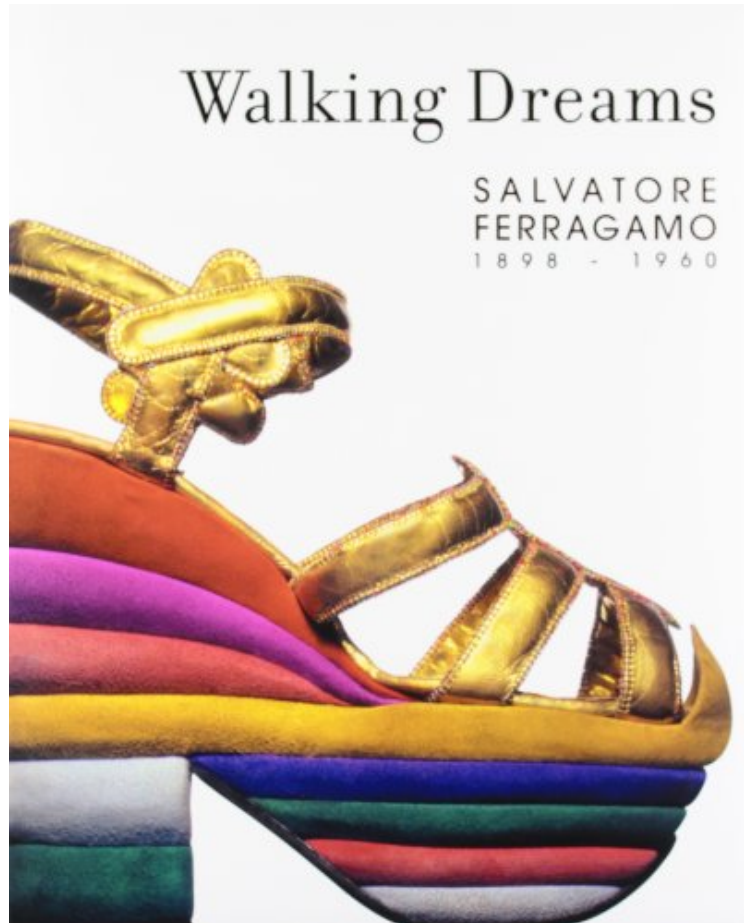


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Walking Dreams: Salvatore Ferragamo, 1898-1960

Mercedes Iturbe

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Mercedes Iturbe : Walking Dreams: Salvatore Ferragamo, 1898-1960 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walking Dreams: Salvatore Ferragamo, 1898-1960:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Signore Ferragamo's company still makes the best shoes you can buy anywhereBy MiltEven though he's been dead a long time, Signore Ferragamo's company still makes the best shoes you can buy anywhere. That is a tribute both to his family and the solid foundation that he laid for them to build upon. Whether you are talking about the styling and construction of his shoes, or even the design of the label in them, Salvatore Ferragamo was totally ahead of his time, and most shoe companies (hello Louboutin and Blahnik and others too numerous and over-priced to mention) can't come close to Ferragamos's quality and genius. I mean, shoes made of Hummingbird feathers or 18k gold-- zowey! And I can tell you from first hand knowledge, they are truly comfortable as well. While the English in this book might be somewhat dodgy at times, Ms. Iturbe gives the reader enough background to be interesting, not boring. And the pictures-- TDF baby!! While back in the day only the true crème-de-la-crème could afford his goods (hello Marilyn, The Duchess of Windsor, Garbo- people who knew quality and could

buy the best), today they can be purchased all over the world (no trip to Florence necessary). They still aren't cheap, but I think relatively they are somewhat less costly than they were. I guess progress ain't all bad!

Walking Dreams explores the life and work of the legendary Italian shoe designer, an artist who revolutionized footwear by introducing new styles and innovative materials that called up associations with furniture, domestic objects and radical architecture. Ferragamo's work was always experimental, from cork wedges made from Italian wine-stoppers to stiletto heels, both of which he invented, to towering platforms in pressed and rounded layers, sometimes sculpted or painted, sometimes decorated with gems or shockingly tiny mirror mosaics. Over the years, Ferragamo patented systems for making leather substitutes, systems for producing raffia or jersey uppers, heels made of transparent bakelite, and wooden soles held together with traditional joinery.