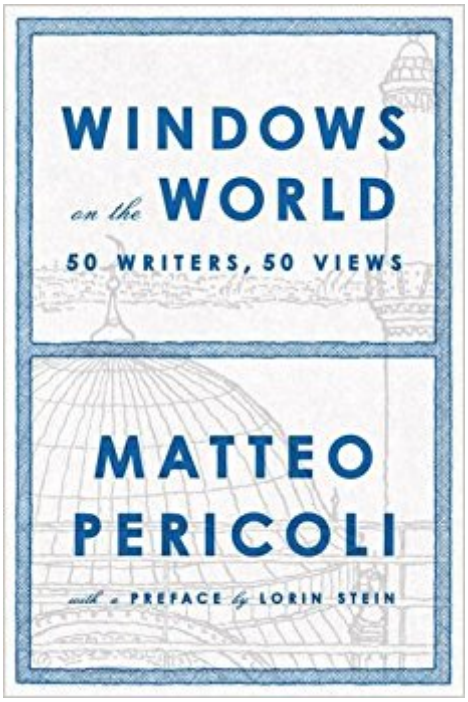
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Windows On The World: Fifty Writers, Fifty Views



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Synopsis

Fifty of the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s greatest writers share their views in collaborationÃ Â with the artist Matteo Pericoli, expanding our own views on place,Ã Â creativity, and the meaning of homeAll of us, at some point in our daily lives, haveÃ Â found ourselves looking out the window. We pauseÃ Â in our work, tune out of a conversation, and turnÃ Â toward the outside. Our eyes simply gaze, withoutÃ Â seeing, at a landscape whose familiarity becomesÃ Â the customary ground for distraction: the usualÃ Â rooftops, the familiar trees, a distant crane. TheÃ Â way of life for most of us in the twenty-first centuryÃ Â means that we spend most of our time indoors, inÃ Â an urban environment, and our awareness of theÃ Â outside world comes via, and thanks to, a framedÃ Â glass hole in the wall.In Windows on the World: Fifty Writers, Fifty Views,Ã Â architect and artist Matteo Pericoli brilliantlyÃ Â explores this concept alongside fifty of ourÃ Â most beloved writers from across the globe. ByÃ Â pairing drawings of window views with texts thatÃ Â revealÃ¢â ¬â •either physically or metaphoricallyÃ¢â ¬â •what the drawings cannot, Windows on the WorldÃ Â offers a perceptual journey through the world asÃ Â seen through the windows of prominent writers:Ã Â Orhan Pamuk in Istanbul, Daniel Kehlmann inÃ Â Berlin, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in Lagos, JohnÃ Â Jeremiah Sullivan in Wilmington, North Carolina,Ã Â Nadine Gordimer in Johannesburg, Xi Chuan inÃ Â Beijing. Taken together, the viewsÃ¢â ¬â •geographyÃ Â and perspective, location and voiceÃ¢â ¬â •resonate withÃ Â and play off each other.Working from a series of meticulousÃ Â photographs and other notes from authorsÃ¢â ¬â„¢Ã Â homes and offices, Pericoli creates a pen-and-inkÃ Â illustration of each window and the view itÃ Â frames. Many readers know PericoliÃ¢â ¬â„¢s work fromÃ Â his acclaimed series for The New York Times and laterÃ Â for The Paris Review Daily, which have a devotedÃ Â following. Now, Windows on the World collectsÃ Â from PericoliÃ¢â ¬â„¢s body of work and features fifteenÃ Â never-before-seen windows in one gorgeouslyÃ Â designed volume, as well as a preface from theÃ Â Paris ReviewÃ¢â ¬â„¢s editor Lorin Stein. As we delve intoÃ Â what each writerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s view may or may not share withÃ Â the othersÃ¢â ¬â„¢, as we look at the map and exploreÃ Â unfamiliar views of cities from around the world,Ã Â a new kind of map begins to take shape.Windows on the World is a profound and eye-openingÃ Â look inside the worlds of writers,Ã Â reminding us that the things we see every dayÃ Â are woven into our selves and our imaginations,Ã Â making us keener and more inquisitive observersÃ Â of our own worlds.

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Customer Reviews

Los Angeles Review of Books:Ã Â Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“At their best, the drawings and texts in Windows on the World make writers real and humanÃ¢â ¬Â|while still leaving room for mystery and fantasy.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Shelf Awareness:Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“A diverse, fascinating collection.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Library Journal:Ã¢â ¬Å“[Windows on the World] is a great read for those interested in the lives of writers, lovers of memoir, and anyone with a touch of wanderlust. A fun conversation starter and introduction to writers from around the world.Ã¢â ¬Â•

Matteo Pericoli was born in Milan, where heÃ Â graduated from the Polytechnic School of Architecture.Ã Â He moved to New York in 1995, where he has workedÃ Â as an architect, illustrator, author, journalist, andÃ Â teacher. He now lives with his wife and daughter inÃ Â Turin, Italy, where he teaches architecture to creativeÃ Â writing students at the Scuola Holden. His books includeÃ Â Manhattan Unfurled and The City Out My Window.

Beautiful book with gorgeous illustrations. I love hearing about people's (particularly writer's) homes/spaces/views so this was a fun book.

This unique approach introduces the reader to views (both written and visual) put forth by renowned international writers who have succinctly described their private, secluded havens where creativity flows for us, as readers, to appreciate and enjoy.

Not my favorite book. Ok but not as great as expected.

A pleasure doing business with!!!!!!!! Highly recommended!!!!!!!

I am a big fan of all of his books.

beautifully drawn and beautifully put together.

The premise is simple: 50 writers from around the world submitted photographs of window views from their respective work spaces, accompanied by a page or two of text inspired by what they observe.Pericoli, a trained architect, created pen and ink drawings from the photos (a time-honored practice of more than a few artists to this day). But these are far from soulless, academic CAD-like renderings. There's an organic vitality to Pericoli's lines that's never lost, however finely detailed.Pen and ink is a famously unforgiving medium requiring patience and a calm hand. It invites the eye to scan slowly, taking in the rhythmic sway of lines and filling in imagined shadings and textures in hatched space. Immersing myself in these drawings reminded me of Japanese woodcuts: there's a wonderful contrast between stillness and motion where solid structures vibrate with a life force that our direct vision can often miss in our daily existence.It's unclear whether any of the writers saw the finished drawings before submitting their text (I suspect not). Yet I felt Pericoli's choice of medium serves not just as perfect accompanying illustrations but as equal partners in the final work - not unlike the piano parts of Beethoven's violin sonatas - more active duets than fixed primary and secondary roles.The windows themselves are wonderfully varied rectangular assemblages of glass and frame: triptychs, tall and narrow, classically- proportioned, ornately trimmed, Mission-style, Lloyd Wright-influenced, utilitarian suburban - reflecting local and regional touches as well as a more generic worldly cosmopolitanism. And the scenes beyond the windows are just as varied, coastlines, gardens, city streets, skyscapes as well as landlocked, sparse flora, the dense, the modern, the banality of simple furnishing, the majesty of grand skies and vistas.The texts are as individual as you'd expect from such a worldly, cross-cultural group, yet a number of common threads emerge: Some writers focus on literal description and historical context, others treat the view as a jumping off point for biographical or fictional vignettes, and most tend to float between the philosophical and their practical existence and work habits. They're all short-enough that it was an easy and pleasant read to take in the varied voices.I'll confess that, of the 50 writers, I'm familiar with just a handful including, Nadine Gordimer, T.C. Boyle, Elmore Leonard and Ryu

Murakami. But that's beside Pericoli's point. 'Windows on the World' is meant to encourage all of us to reflect upon the inherent richness of our surroundings - however humble or majestic - and examine how our inner and outer worlds intersect.Just be sure to ratchet down your over-stimulated senses a notch or two beforehand; otherwise it's just too easy to gloss over what this gentle and reflective book has to offer.

When I began reading the preface I feared the net effect of the book would be boredom with the pretentiousness of the concept (I ordered the book on a whim knowing little about it except the blurb). However I was soon charmed by the book's simplicity and humility.The book is a collection of essays by authors who have windows in their studios. They write about what they have seen through those windows or what they imposed through their imaginations. The opposing page is an illustration of those windows. The illustrations are simple but evocative and I found myself wishing that the stories were all one page so I could see the illustrations while I read (some of the essays run to a page and a half). The author claims that recording the windows in photos didn't work and I have to agree with him. The line drawings are perfect for the theme.The stories are poetic, just the right length, diverse, yet uniformly interesting. An unexpectedly fun and rewarding book.

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