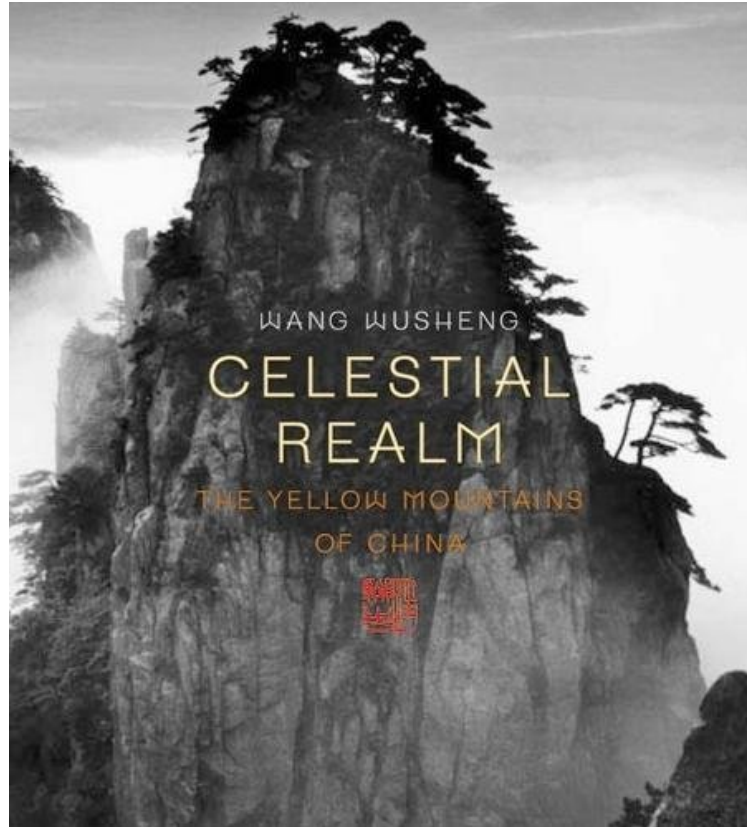


Celestial Realm: The Yellow Mountains of China

Damian Harper, Seigo Matsuoka
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Damian Harper, Seigo Matsuoka : Celestial Realm: The Yellow Mountains of China before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Celestial Realm: The Yellow Mountains of China:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Book to Spend Hours Poring OverBy For Two Cents PlainThis collection of photographs is nothing less than a masterpiece -- and the physical book gives these magnificent photographs the presentation they deserve (reproduction, paper, size, binding, dust jacket). I don't own a finer book of photos. The black and white group, which is the majority, is most artistic and "works" the way Far Eastern black and white paintings do. In a way, the black and whites are more evocative of color than actual color. But the color photos too are sublime. The essay, although I have only begun to read it, is well-written and engaging. I'll probably buy this book again the next time I need a gift for a friend with the eyes to appreciate these wondrous glimpses of the "Celestial Realm."0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful mountain photography.By AlexanderThis book presents the work of the photographer Wang Wusheng, who has captured the stunning beauty of Mount Huangshan in northern China. The photographs are mainly in black and white, which lends itself particularly well to this subject. For those with an interest in how they were made, the photographer has included at the end of the book, for each photograph, details of the type of camera and lens used (both 35mm and medium format), the type of film, exposure

information, and details of where each was made.⁴ of 4 people found the following review helpful. Landscape photographing as distanceBy Sceptique500This book is deeply evocative of some aspects of the Yellow Mountains - moods and mists, trees and cliffs, light and shadows - all stunningly rendered in black and white. The rivers, however, are missing, and so are close-ups of vegetation, wildlife, and rocks. Yet Chinese paintings always give space to them: indeed harmony cannot exist without them.The introductory essay is slow and profound. The hurried Lonely-Planet-style description of the region and its ecology at the end is quite out of place.

A lavishly produced volume featuring stunning duotone images of China's fabled Yellow Mountains by the celebrated photographer Wang Wusheng. For more than three decades, Wang Wusheng has been captivated by the beauty of Mount Huangshan, also known as the Yellow Mountains. Located in the southern part of the Anhui province in northern China, Mount Huangshan has often been described as the world's most beautiful and enchanting mountain. Over the centuries this mountain with its seventy-two peaks has been the subject of Chinese landscape painters, whose singular works are so haunting it seems impossible that these mountains exist in nature. Inspired by the legacy of these paintings, Wang Wusheng has sought to portray this scenic wonder. As shown in the collection of ninety photographs in this extraordinary volume, here are mist-shrouded, granite peaks emerging from an ever-changing veil of clouds, sculptural craggy rocks on lofty cliffs, and weathered, oddly-shaped pine trees, depicted in all seasons and at various times of day. Wang Wusheng's images are so exceptional that they look like paintings. Accompanying the photographs are two fascinating essays about the art history and natural history of the Yellow Mountains. Art historian Wu Hung provides an eloquent, comprehensive survey of the region's artistic, literary, and photographic tradition, relating how Wang Wusheng's work is an important part of this notable legacy. In a second essay, Damian Harper presents an authoritative account of the geology, geography, and natural history of this legendary place. In addition, there is an introduction by the Japanese critic Seigo Matsuoka, who contributes an insightful appraisal of Wang Wusheng's work.

From Publishers WeeklyWusheng's photographic portfolio of the Yellow Mountains will strike Western viewers at first glance as an appealing fusion of Ansel Adams and ink wash scrolls. Shot mostly in black and white, these images of dark craggy peaks floating in swathes of white mist combine stunning grandeur with a subtlety that rewards meditative viewing. There's more going on here than pretty nature photography: originally a physicist, Wang turned to photography after two years of "reeducation" through hard labor during the Cultural Revolution. He began exploring the Yellow Mountains as an area not "contaminated by human society." Though deeply sensitive to tradition, the pictures have a unique and (at times) modern feel; when Wang heightens the contrast, he produces exquisite washes of darkness and light that compare compositionally to abstract paintings. The pictures are well-served by their accompanying essays: critic Seigo Matsuoka provides an aesthetic framework for the pictures, scholar Wu Hung places them in art-historical context, and travel writer Damian Harper discusses the mountains' geography and gives tips on how to visit them. As both homage to and reinvention of one of the world's oldest traditions of landscape representation, this volume will please lovers of traditional Chinese art and photography alike. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Praise for *Celestial Realm: A truly sublime photo book.* Business Week Wang Wusheng's breathtaking photographs unlock the secret of traditional Chinese landscape painting. Seattle Post-Intelligence Each page is a revelation. Parabol Duotone photographs are the achingly beautiful stuff that dreams are made of. These granite peaks shrouded in mist look like islands in the clouds at once serene and strikingly dramatic. The result enralls, with an almost painful yearning that's akin to the numinous. Artsforum