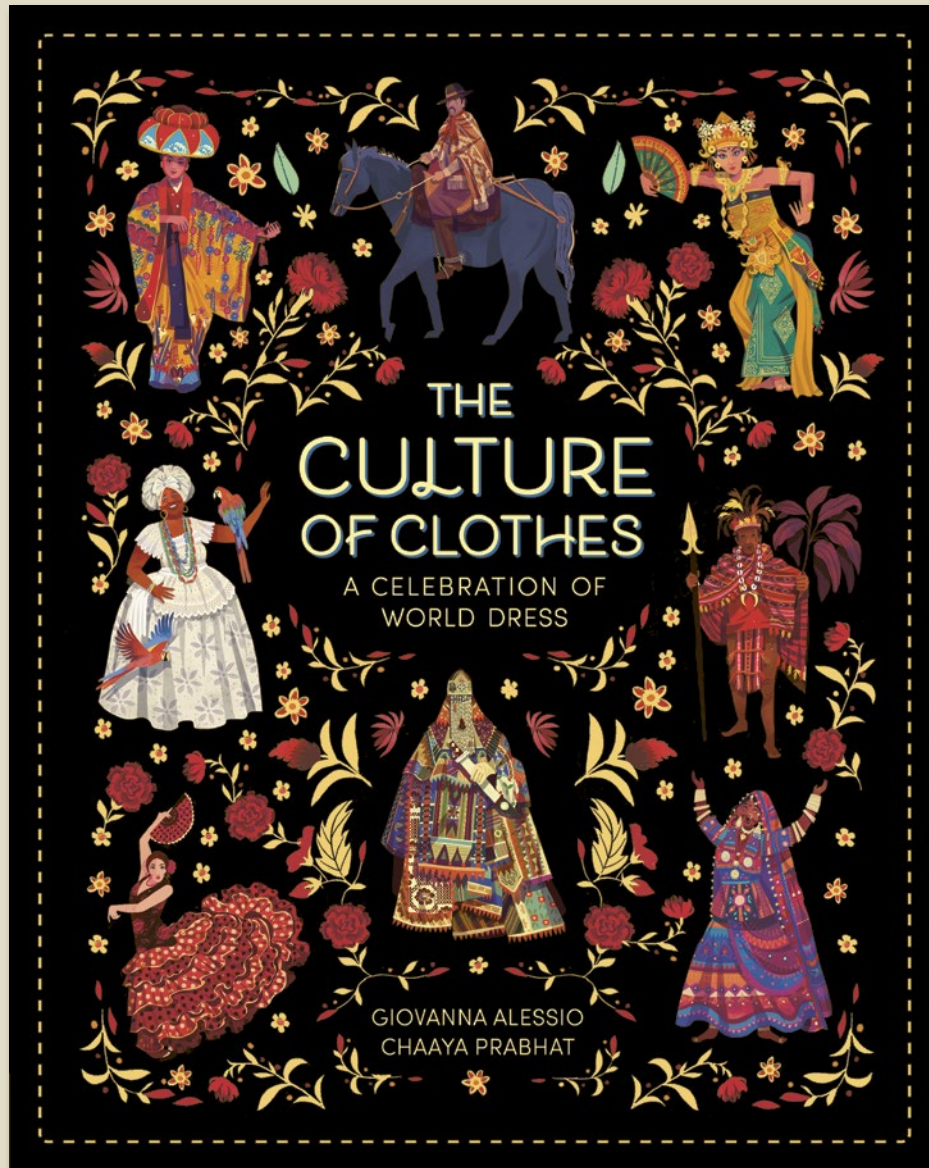


The Culture of Clothes



A colourful celebration of costumes and cultures from around the world.

- Beautiful folk-art style from Indian illustrator Chaaya Prabhat
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- Contents: Bali; China; India; Japan; South Korea; Philippines; Thailand; Mexico; Greenland; USA; Argentina; Peru; Panama; Brazil; Namibia; Mali; Kenya; Nigeria; Cameroon; Portugal; Germany; France; Spain; Czech Republic; Norway; New Zealand; Samoa; Papua New Guinea

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ASIA

As the world's largest continent, Asia stretches over a staggering 44 million square kilometres. It's home to Mount Everest (Earth's highest peak), over 8,000 metres over the roof of Tibet. It's also home to about 4.5 billion people. The Great Wall, can be found, spanning more than 4000 miles before we reach the tip of the island of Sumatra.

Due to its wide reach, encompassing every conceivable kind of landscape, the people of Asia have found an astounding array of ways to create beautiful, functional and useful items of clothing. From the silk and cotton of the Middle East to the woolly white sheep of the Japanese Islands, the vast continent offers a rich variety of traditional dress.



CHINA Longhorn Miao

In southern China's Guizhou province live millions of people known as the Miao. One small Miao community that number over 100,000 people live in a cluster of villages on the sides of the mountains around a town called Longshou. They are called Longshou Miao and are known for collecting the most beautiful horns of the Longhorn New Year to guard their jobs.

Using the horns, the Longshou Miao women wear a special costume made up of a single, beautiful horn. The horns are often brown and covered in colorful patterns and designs. The horns are often used to make beautiful jewelry, including necklaces, earrings and bracelets.

It's a bit like the Miao women wear in their hands that make the traditional dress. The horns are often used to make beautiful jewelry, including necklaces, earrings and bracelets. The horns are often used to make beautiful jewelry, including necklaces, earrings and bracelets.

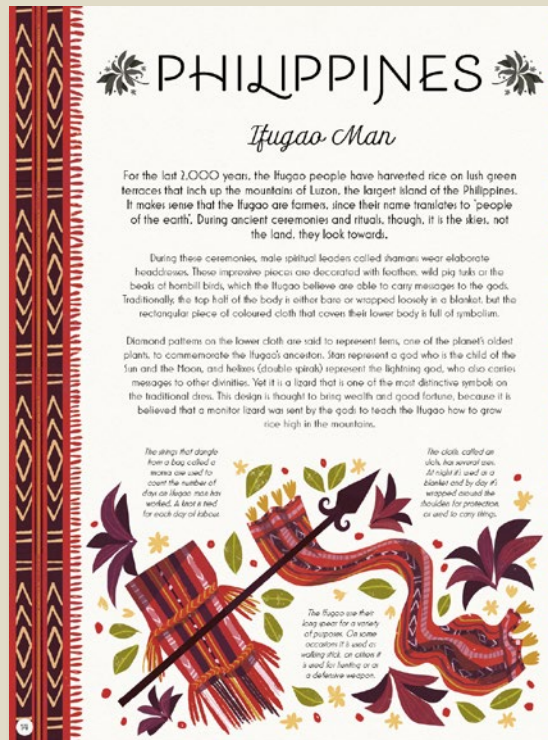


BALI Leg Dancer

From ancient mountains flowing down to rivers that stretch shades of turquoise blue, Bali is a beautiful island. The island culture of the Balinese people is a mix of Hindu, Buddhist and Christian traditions. The island is a beautiful island. The island culture of the Balinese people is a mix of Hindu, Buddhist and Christian traditions.

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PHILIPPINES Ifugao Man

For the last 2,000 years, the Ifugao people have harvested rice on lush green terraces that inch up the mountains of Luzon, the largest island of the Philippines. It makes sense that the Ifugaos are farmers, since their name translates to 'people of the earth'. During ancient ceremonies and rituals, though, it is the skies, not the land, they look towards.

During these ceremonies, male spiritual leaders called shamans wear elaborate headpieces. These impressive pieces are decorated with feathers, wild pig tails or the heads of hornbill birds, which the Ifugaos believe are able to carry messages to the gods. Traditionally, the top half of the body is either bare or wrapped loosely in a blanket, but the rectangular piece of coloured cloth that covers their lower body is full of symbolism.

Diamond patterns on the lower cloth are said to represent ferns, one of the planet's oldest plants, to commemorate the Ifugao ancestor. Itan represent a god who is the child of the Sun and the Moon, and hehan (double spirals) represent the lightning god, who also carries messages to other deities. Yet it is a lizard that is one of the most distinctive symbols on the traditional dress. This design is thought to bring wealth and good fortune, because it is believed that a monitor lizard was sent by the gods to teach the Ifugaos how to grow rice high in the mountains.

The strips that dangle from a bag called a wanga are used to count the number of days an Ifugao man has worked. A bear's neck is used for each day of labour.



Pub Date	11/04/2024
Pub Price	£10.99
ISBN	9781800789265
H x W	302 x 241mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	Giovanna Alessio
Illustrator	Chaaya Prabhat
Extent	80pp
Rights Available	World