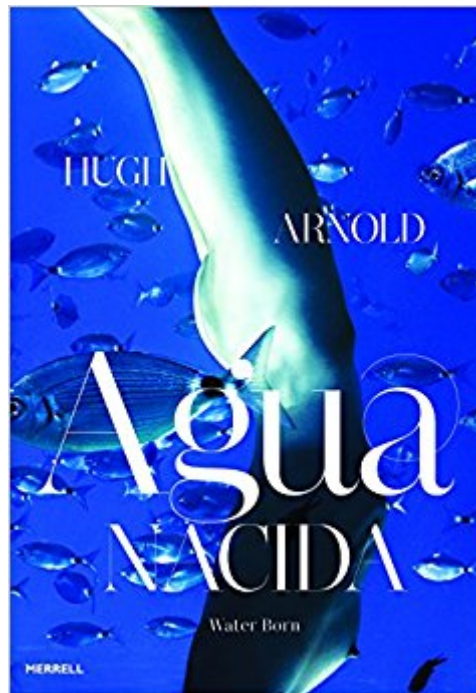




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Agua Nacida: Water Born



Synopsis

Whilst living in the Balearic island of Ibiza, an island renowned for the healing properties of its water, world-renowned photographer, Hugh Arnold, was moved to follow a new direction in his work. Inspired by the limitless possibilities of the three-dimensional, weightless medium of underwater photography, he embarked upon a 12-month adventure that would see him travel the world to explore man's relationship with the sea. Arnold began his journey in Australia, but cold Antarctic currents, poor visibility, box jellyfish and sharks all conspired to push Arnold further afield to Fiji where he shot until storms made diving impossible. Then, lured by the Tuna rearing pens in Gozo, an island off Malta, he travelled there to complete his mission. The result is this luxurious 368-page book, which takes us on a journey to explore the ocean, and ourselves, in a totally new way. It is an evocative and breath-taking volume that reflects the ocean as a feminine element, captured in Arnold's stunning images of underwater nudes. Immersed in the playfulness and sensuality of water, the swimmers, Nika Lauriat and Polina Barbasova, express the cycles of Woman through fluidity of movement: the womb's embrace, growth, discovery, sexuality, and of course, beauty. Arnold's work provokes and invokes. It arouses reflection and understanding of man's connection to a greater and larger world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hugh Arnold was born in the UK and trained as an actor before being enticed into the world of photography by the light and natural outdoor elements of Australia. During his career he has worked

for such prestigious magazines, as Vogue, Tatler and Conde Nast Traveller and has also shot worldwide campaigns for beauty companies including L'Oréal, Pantene and Maxfactor.

If you've seen Schatz's book, *H2O*, this book can not be considered only on its own. It has to stand in comparison - and compares well. Arnold's emphasis differs. He makes much of entrained air, inverted positions, gauzy decor, and ambiguities. These images pose figure against everything else in the water, and most especially the figure against interface of water and air. Floating hair, floating drapery, and floating soft tissues of the womanly figure, they all take on lives of their own when water negates gravity. Then, when two figures interact, dynamics become even richer. Is that lead and follow in some weightless dance, or something more intimate? With ambiguities of weight, mass, focus, and mood, this engages the ready in dozens of ways. As opposed to *H2O*. Although Schatz engages play of air and water at times, most images carry only water and figure - and, with no surface to show that it's water, the water vanishes. Only figure remains. Arnold works with slim figures and slim busts; Schatz engages smoothly-muscled dancers models with lush curves (and even more of that lush soft mass). Arnold works with rich backgrounds of natural aquatic environment - Schatz strips the background away completely, again leaving only the model. I like the richness, hinted eroticism, and willowy beauty of Arnold's vision. Schatz sometimes uses those element. Mostly, though, it's just the model, the figure, and her native elegance. I like this book. I like it a lot. By itself, it's a delightful achievement. But, Schatz lingers in my mind, with his stark, pure focus of vision. It offers precision, clarity, and an edge of monomania that echoes with my engineer's soul. Arnold's book offers beauty and variety - but Schatz's offers something just a bit deeper and more revealing.-- wiredweird

I have been struggling a bit as I thought about which superlatives to use in this review of Hugh Arnold's masterpiece, *AGUA NACIDA*, determining which words and phrases would do honor to what he accomplished in this uncompromising photographic adventure? But rather than struggle to try and write this from memory, I went back to the book for the third time in less than a month, and meandered slowly and deliberately through each delicious page, trying to imagine it was a first visit instead of a third. Once again I was left speechless, hypnotized by dozens upon dozens of unparalleled underwater photographs featuring beautiful young mermaids expressing themselves in ballet-like movements within nature's ultimate stage. Mr. Arnold's photographic images are choreographed perfectly with wonderful quotations from such noteworthy individuals as Anne Morrow Lindbergh, Dr. Anita Johnston, Mother Theresa, and John F. Kennedy among others. The

art direction is stunning. Mr. Arnold captured visual perspectives in AGUA NACIDA that scream out silently in their sensitivity, honesty, unfiltered and uncensored dignity, and a unique blend of angles and oceanic lighting. It is as though Mr. Arnold conducted a full orchestra comprised of underwater lighting and color that is beyond description. Mr. Arnold incorporated tangential stories from the depths of his own vivid imagination and blended them with a mature and wildly dynamic sense of poetic balance to enhance this delicate fantasy view of life itself in an undersea adventure that honors women and the feminine mystique.....mermaids of the universe. I have never experienced a book quite like this. It is photographic art at the highest level. For those who are obsessed with the sea and the depths of our impressions about it -- and about the importance of mermaids -- of the feminine itself in life itself and our dreams about it -- I strongly recommend AGUA NACIDA.

A rich colorful emotional photographic , life and personal journey created by a master lensman and his devoted crew, thank you Mr Arnold! for bringing this gorgeous epic of undersea odyssey to life. You have all the best qualities of Herb Ritts , Minor White , Sir Richard Avedon , Albert Watson and Bill King with your very own spice and passion that is beamingly endless in a vast amount of special and powerful images of 2 real life mermaids who are all over the ocean , thank you. this is big

Photographer Hugh Arnold focuses his considerable talents behind the lens to showcase the lure of the sea in this visual feast that celebrates women's sensuality. Lush full color and black and white photos along with the occasional quotes from high profile personalities like Mother Theresa and John F. Kennedy evoke a sense of wonder. While some readers may be put off by the nudity, it is an integral part of the message Arnold is conveying. Particularly interesting are the many instances where rotating the photo creates an entirely different and unexpected underwater view. The use of bubbles and thin, filmy gauze adds to the sense of motion while the fish serve to remind viewers of the context. Overall this is an outstanding example of the photographer's art and will surely inspire a new appreciation for the medium.

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