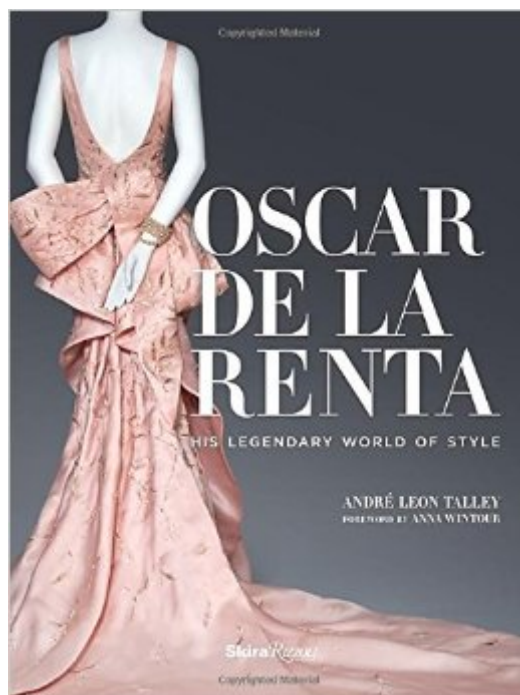


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# Oscar De La Renta: His Legendary World Of Style



## Synopsis

A sumptuous monograph tracing the life and legacy of fashion luminary Oscar de la Renta. In October 2014 one of the fashion world's champions, Oscar de la Renta, passed away, a great loss brightened by the innumerable successes of his half-century reign. The acclaimed fashion designer dressed first ladies from Kennedy to Obama, and celebrities from Beyoncé to Sarah Jessica Parker. Renowned for his unique charm, impeccable taste, and original lifestyle, he married the highest standards of French couture with the ultimate motivation that women must look and feel beautiful. In this intimate volume, longtime editor and friend André Leon Talley recounts de la Renta's journey through nearly 70 iconic dresses, mainly made for private clients, accompanied by fascinating stories of the exquisite craftsmanship and the legendary friends that brought each gown to life. Born in the Dominican Republic in 1932, de la Renta left for Madrid at nineteen to study art, where he rose to prominence as a sketch artist for newspapers and fashion houses. From his apprenticeship under Cristóbal Balenciaga to his eponymous collections, the designer's simple lines elevated with a flamenco dancer's flourish reflect his deep connection to his roots and his commitment to transcendence through beautiful garments.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I was sad to hear of the passing of Oscar de la Renta. His designs were pure elegance and so was he. This book is the exhibition catalog of his retrospective at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). There is a nice essay by the author as one of his longtime fans and supporter and a few other love letters are also included in the book. What makes this special is that there is not only

photos and stories of the clients and celebrities wearing his designs but they are accompanied by beautiful clear recent images of the dresses. I will say that the designs are mostly recent. Of the 70 dresses profiled in the exhibition only a handful are before 2000. For a man with such a long career I would have expected to see more from his earlier years.

Early on in this book there is a quote from Oscar De La Renta stating that he preferred to see his designs on people and not on display. Maybe that is why the designers of this book decided to only show images from runways and photo shoots. This is a catalog from the first *major* retrospective of the late designer (Kent State in 2007 and SCAD in 2015 had smaller shows). I have always admired his work and he personified class and elegance and this book is a fitting tribute. The text is bright and interesting and has the most information about him and his influences than any other book. I was just hoping to see more of the items from the exhibition, more recent photography, and some detailed photographs similar to the quality of the SCAH catalog.

Pros: Lovely photos. They are clear and well-lit, so you can see the details (important to those of us who sew and want high-level inspiration). Several garments are photographed both on the mannequin and on the person who owned them, which shows you how the garment looks in real life. The book includes brief tributes written by people who wore ODLR's designs, although only Mercedes Bass is a major name in fashion or society. Cons: Thin book (175 pages) considering how long ODLR's career was. Hundreds of prominent women wore his clothes, and it would have been interesting to see photos of them. Most of the garments are quite modern, so this book does not give you an overview of his career through the many decades. Most of the garments are also bridal or evening gowns (a few coats and day dresses are thrown in), so again, you don't see the breadth of his expertise. Finally, the writing is really bad. OK, it's a fashion book, and even I agree that the photos are much more important. But Andre Leon Talley desperately needs a good editor. He writes of a woman holding her dog "closely at bay," says "three weeks later" when he means "earlier," and his storytelling "while personal and sincere" is rambling and disjointed, and doesn't even tell you much about Oscar. He also recycles that strange adjective, "bombastic," which he badly overused in his book "The Little Black Dress." In all, this is a nice book to buy at a discount for some clear photos of beautiful recent-era clothes. It's not an effective or comprehensive retrospective on a major international designer. We'll have to wait for that one.

Plan on returning this book, very disappointed. If all the photos were like the cover book would have

been great, but the majority of the photos I've already seen in fashion magazines like Vogue and Bazaar. Really wanted to see close-ups and more details of his designs.

Another beautiful book on the a Fashion Legend....and his family & clients!! Loved all the personal writings by his friends. Hard to see another ICON gone....but this is such a fine remembrance of him.

Pretty book...great for a lady who loves expensive clothes and formal evenings....affordable gift at the current price of \$27.50.

Enjoyed this book. Beautiful photographs, but really, really wish that it had covered his earlier work, not just post 2006 or so.

A representative account of one of Fashion's most brilliant designers. So unique were his designs that one could identify his work with just one brief look... Exquisite!

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