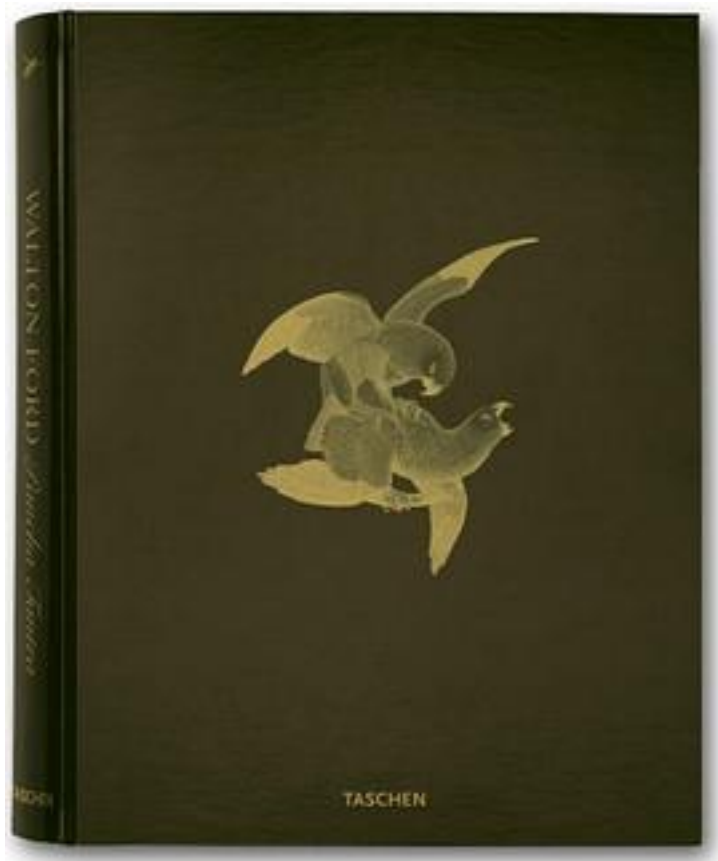


pancha tantra



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著者:Walton Ford

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The beautifully savage beasts and birds of Walton Ford

Walton Ford's life-sized watercolors of animals could be mistaken for 19th-century natural-science illustrations or British colonial paintings. Except they're not. Something strange and usually sinister is happening in each of Ford's works, whether

it's a turkey crushing a small parrot with its claw, a collection of monkeys wreaking havoc on a formally set dinner table, or a buffalo surrounded by a pack of bloodied white wolves... in the middle of a proper French garden. Executed with the deft skill of a natural-history artist, Ford's works vibrate with an intensity of uncanny familiarity; they are both reassuring in style and disturbing in content. With titles like *Au Revoir Zaire*, *Dirty Dick Burton's Aide de Camp*, and *Space Monkey*, his paintings not only blur the lines between human and animal history, but also open the doors to a world of real-life fantasy, dreams, and nightmares.

For this hand-crafted, limited-edition volume, Ford's paintings have been color-separated and reproduced in Pan4C, the finest reproduction technique available today, providing unequalled intensity and color range. The book includes 12 horizontal and 4 vertical foldouts, along with dozens of details, which present the work at a scale that practically allows the viewer to enter the ancient and peopled landscapes, feel the brush of a bird's feathers against flesh, and experience the hot breath of a wild cat about to go for the jugular.

Collected together for the first ever in-depth exploration of Walton Ford's oeuvre, Ford's bestiary takes its name from one of the texts he frequently cites in his work: *The Pancha Tantra*, the ancient Indian book of animal folktales collected from the 3rd to 5th centuries B.C. that is considered to be the precursor to Aesop's *Fables*. Stories derived from many of the texts that served as the germinal seed for these paintings fill the book's appendix; and an original essay by New Yorker staff writer Bill Buford substantiates the notion that this contemporary artist is more than just one to watch, but one who will stand the test of time. Available in an Art and a Collector's Edition, *Walton Ford: Pancha Tantra* is limited to a total of 1,600 copies, signed by the artist and presented in a custom clamshell box.

Collector's Edition

(No. 101–1,600)

- Limited to 1,500 individually numbered copies, each signed by Walton Ford
- Printed on archival-quality paper
- Finished in book cloth with a leather spine and corners with gold embossing
- Packaged in a clamshell box covered in Luxor book cloth

Both editions feature a complete professional biography as well as an appendix with substantial excerpts from the textual sources for the paintings, from Vietnamese folktales and the letters of Benjamin Franklin to the *Autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini* and John James Audubon's *Ornithological Biography*.

作者介绍:

Walton Ford grew up in Westchester County, New York, in a family of gifted storytellers. As a child he was an amateur naturalist—collecting animals, hiking, fishing, and devoting much of his free time to examining and drawing the dioramas and specimens at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. He completed his studies in filmmaking at the Rhode Island School of Design in 1982, but soon adapted his talent for storytelling to painting. His life-size watercolors, which at first glance appear

to be in the vein of 19th-century natural-history painters like John J. Audubon or Edward Lear, are actually complexly layered fantasies depicting wild animals in unnatural settings and situations, and cite textual sources ranging from the letters of Benjamin Franklin to the journals of Leonardo da Vinci. Ford lived in New York City for most of the 1980s and '90s—home base for personally and professionally influential travels to countries including Italy, India, and Mexico—and for some years supported himself as a wood refinisher, carpenter, metalworker, and illustrator, while developing his craft and audience. His work has been exhibited widely since 1987 at private galleries and public institutions including The Whitney Museum, The Brooklyn Museum, the Paul Kasmin Gallery in New York, Michael Cohn Gallery in Los Angeles. He has been awarded a John Simon Guggenheim fellowship and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts, among others. He now lives, works, and hikes in the Berkshire Hills of Massachusetts.

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