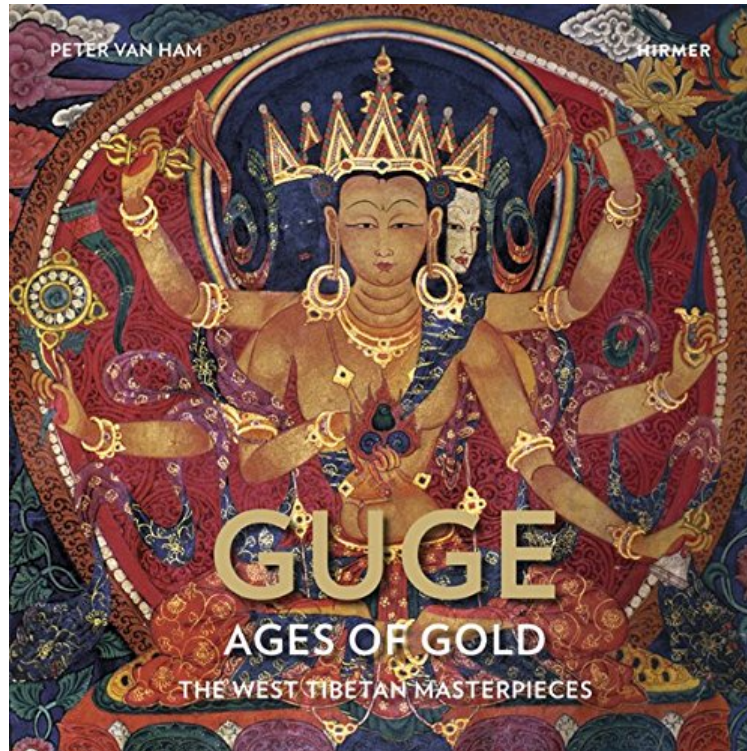


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Guge--Ages of Gold: The West Tibetan Masterpieces

Peter van Ham

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Peter van Ham : Guge--Ages of Gold: The West Tibetan Masterpieces before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Guge--Ages of Gold: The West Tibetan Masterpieces:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Dazzling Tibetan Religious Art from a Lost KingdomBy M. J. SweetWhat a wonderful book; it makes the splendid art treasures of Western Tibet, hidden away in the virtually inaccessible ruined cities of Tsaparang and Tholing, in the stony desert of S. W. Tibet, available in beautifully produced and detailed reproductions with a highly informative artistic and historical commentary. Van Ham includes historical photographs which document some of the many beautiful objects that were lost forever during the brutal vandalism of the so-called Great Cultural Revolution. It's a must-have for anyone with an interest in Tibetan religion and culture. The only significant problem is the lack of an index. Can't understand why this feature, which would make the book so much easier to use, was omitted. Hope that it will be included if there is a second addition.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy susanmeyersamazingly great quality beautiful colors1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Mary FishBeautiful book.

Guge was a great Buddhist kingdom in Western Tibet. Today, only ruins remain of the once-splendid civilization, but, over seven hundred years, its rulers were passionate patrons of the arts who commissioned vast temple complexes, richly ornamented and filled with art and furniture by Kashmiri master craftsmen. The grand, spacious temples of Guge are all the more captivating because of the kingdoms sudden, mysterious disappearance. To create GugeAges of

Gold, photographer Peter van Ham and collaborators gained access to Guges temple complexes and monasteries many of which are no longer accessible to photographers and shows for the first time the art and artifacts that have survived to the present day, from both the Indian and the Tibetan sides of Guge and spanning the entire time period. Among the sites documented are the monasteries Tholing, Tsaparang, and Dungkar, in addition to Serkhang, the Golden Temple, which contains many beautiful murals completed in the sixteenth century during the second of Guges two golden ages, when the formal and stylistic direction of Guges art became characterized by a blend of Kashmiri traditions and Nepalese and Chinese influences. A concise text accompanies the images, bringing in the latest research on Guge and the art and culture of western Tibet. Guge is a wonder of the world, yet few photographers have had the opportunity to capture it and even fewer with such vision and technical skill. Guge Ages of Gold seeks to preserve this rich artistic and cultural heritage.

About the Author Peter van Ham is a Frankfurt-based author and photographer who has been researching Himalayan culture for nearly thirty years, documenting it in more than a dozen books to date, including *Tabo Gods of Light*, also published by Hirmer Publishers.