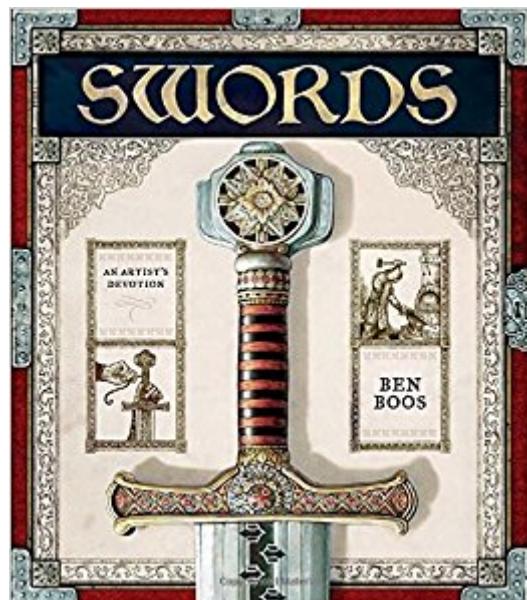


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# Swords: An Artist's Devotion



## **Synopsis**

Be smitten by the sword! An extraordinary young artist brings the history of this noble weapon â " and its skillful masters â " into stunningly sharp relief. Brave men and women have taken up the sword since ages of old, and a fascination with this formidable weapon grips dedicated followers to this day. Here is a celebration of swords and swordsmen that spans time and place â " from ancient warriors such as Beowulf to medieval knights; from stealthy ninja and samurai to legendary maidens of war. Illustrated with breathtaking intricacy, SWORDS reflects the passion of a true devotee, offering lavish background details on design and use as well as exquisite spreads showcasing specimens in all their shining glory.

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 6 Upâ "This absorbing, large-format collection of sketches, paintings, and historical notes on sword craft is not called an artist's devotion for nothing. Boos's treatment of his subject is reverential and his artwork is outstanding, combining meticulous attention to detail and a designer's sense for layout. The spare text provides just enough information but generally allows the illustrations to speak for themselves. Each chapter covers a different period or place in the history of the sword, including the Iron and Bronze Ages, the Middle Ages in Europe, Japanese samurai and ninjas, the Silla knights of Korea, African sword craft, Islamic designs, and more. Although the author, a former

video-game designer, "would have it known that [his] qualifications are modest," he manages to portray an incredible variety of styles, from hilts to blades to the intricate metalwork that makes each sword not just a weapon but also a work of art. It's easy to get caught up in his enthusiasm, and the right reader will spend hours poring over every loving detail. Give this to fans of history, art, or swordplay fantasies. "Rebecca Donnelly, Loma Colorado Public Library, Rio Rancho, NM

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"As a sword lover, turning the pages of this book makes my pulse accelerate. More alive than photography, Ben Boos's stunning illustrations capture both the reality and the myth of the weapons. Swords is a treasure." Suzanne Collins

I've been looking for a book like this for ages. There are plenty of museum-like books with photographs and the like, but there's something about a meticulously drawn and designed book like this that makes it so much better. There is a wealth of visual reference here, and more swords of more different types than I think I've found in any similar book. If I had one complaint, it would be that I wish there was just a bit more information about the swords depicted. That's hardly a big deal though, especially given than sources of further information are referenced throughout the book, and in a bibliography at the back. This book, as it is, is a work of art. I can't rate it highly enough. Now someone just needs to do an equivalent book (or books, more likely) about other ancient weapons (axes, clubs, maces, flails, polearms, etc.). And then one about armor and other battle dress.

Bought as a gift for my friend who partakes in medieval fairs. He has greatly enjoyed the entire book beginning to end.

A wonderful work done from the heart. A great primer for swords, both real and fantastical. The writing and illustration are both done with an extraordinary amount of passion and talent for the subject. A passion I can attest, was life long. I was childhood friends with the author and he was always drawing and imagining swords and weapons and devouring fantasy novels and games. His innate artistic and creative ability shines in this book and its companion; Fantasy: An Artist's Realm.

good

Bought this for my 13 year old grandson for Christmas. He absolutely LOVES the book! The pictures are wonderful! HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

My 4 1/2 year old grandson is really interested in swords and armor. This book is probably meant for older kids or adults but he loves it! The details of the drawings are incredible and we especially like having the swords broken down into categories. I gave this to my grandson on a long train ride recently and it kept him interested for most of the trip. A beautiful book .

Beautiful. Amazing. Stunning. I find myself staring at this book for hours at a time listening to the swords whisper their names to me. I stroke the pages wishing that I could feel the cold steel on my finger tips. They look so real that I feel cheated of the experience of being able to hold them. Not only are the illustrations astounding, but I also learned about the different wielders of the sword and the diverse models of the swords. Ben Boos did a remarkable job with this book. His passion shines and pops out of each page. I look forward to the day that I can add this book to my own little library in my room.

I ordered this book as a present for my brother for Christmas. It arrived in perfect condition. It was different than what I thought it might be, but a good kind of different. Instead of real pictures, it is drawings, but they are very accurate and many of them look realistic. It also describes different types of swords and shows what they do. It is perfect for someone who loves swords and especially someone who sees it as an art form. I know my brother will love it!

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