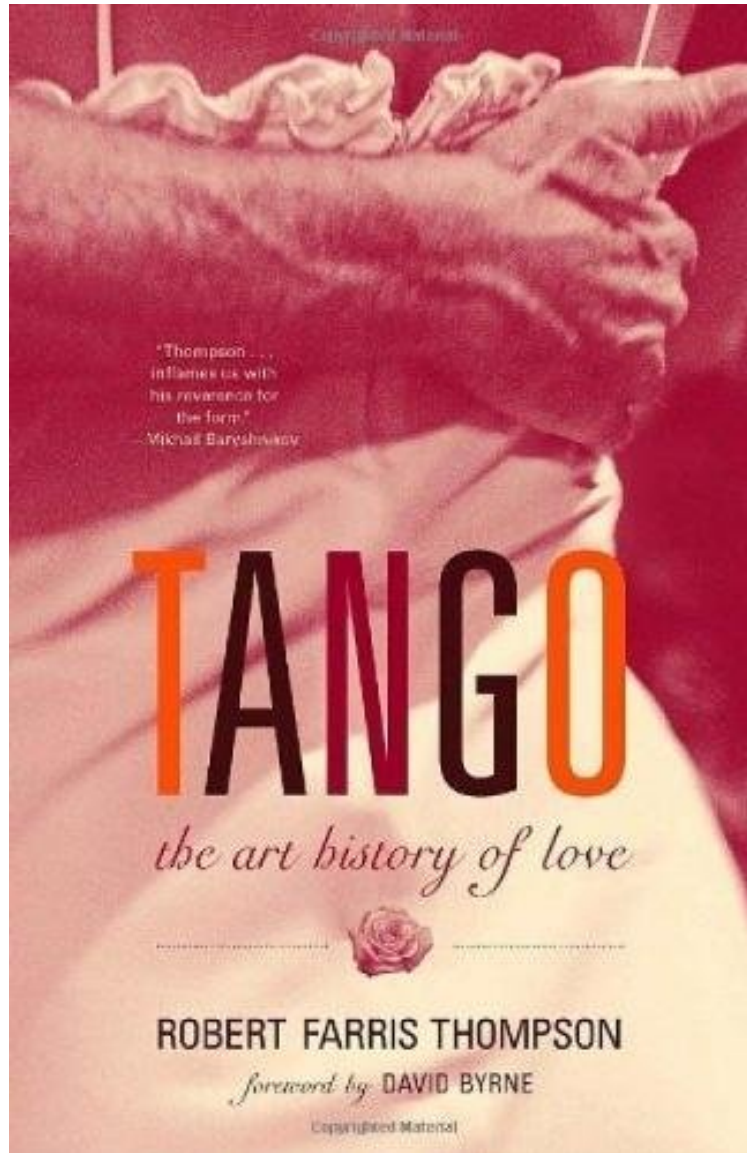


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Tango: The Art History of Love

Robert Farris Thompson

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#518848 in Books Robert Farris Thompson 2006-12-05 2006-12-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .84 x 5.221, .79 #File Name: 1400095794384 pages Tango The Art History of Love | File size: 56.Mb

Robert Farris Thompson : Tango: The Art History of Love before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tango: The Art History of Love:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good purchase. It is very in depth By Sharon McKeever Good purchase. It is very in depth, sometimes over my head. This book goes into great detail of the background and origins of Argentine Tango. Every time I go back through it, I find something that I did not understand or see the previous times. Don't plan on reading it and understanding it in one night. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Thoughtful and interesting read
By Angela I've read other work by this author and always enjoy his scholarly yet approachable style. Dancers, dance anthropologists and other cultural scholars might enjoy this. 9 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Recommend this for dancers interested in more than the steps.
By C. Castell This book was recommended to me by a fellow Tango student. It seems to be one of the best out there for those whose dancing has led to intellectual curiosity about the Argentine culture, politics, and music. This understanding contributes to how I dance Tango today. As I learn new dances, I hope to get beyond being mechanically competent, to dancing this Tango from some inner place. This is one of those books that is helping me get there. There is a very good section on the "how-to" of the dance which will be helpful to dancers with some experience. Beginners will need a little floor time to recognize and absorb the instructions.

In this generously illustrated book, world-renowned Yale art historian Robert Farris Thompson gives us the definitive account of tango, "the fabulous dance of the past hundred years and the most beautiful, in the opinion of Martha Graham. Thompson traces tango's evolution in the nineteenth century under European, Andalusian-Gauche, and African influences through its representations by Hollywood and dramatizations in dance halls throughout the world. He shows us tango not only as brilliant choreography but also as text, music, art, and philosophy of life. Passionately argued and unparalleled in its research, its synthesis, and its depth of understanding, *Tango: The Art History of Love* is a monumental achievement.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Here at last is an antidote to those trite coffee-table books that treat the tango with purple prose. In language no doubt inspired by the lyrics of its subject, this serious volume examines and celebrates the cultural history of the famed Argentine dance, conveying its real passion and the author's passion for it. Thompson, the renowned Yale Africanist and art historian, convincingly evokes the often-observed African roots of the dance, whose name comes from the Ki-Kongo word for "moving in time to a beat." He then explores the tango's relationship to cakewalk and ragtime, Cuba's habanera and Rossini's operas, along with the mutual admiration between the father of tango, Carlos Gardel, and the tenor Enrico Caruso. Thompson tells the stories of tango's composers and performers, from the female composer Eladia Blázquez to poet and lyricist Jorge Luis Borges. Hollywood versions of the dance pale once Thompson begins to mine the riches of tango's rhythms, lyrics, philosophy and steps. He explains the sinuous figure-eight footwork of ochos, the boleó circular leg thrusts and the dramatic corte y quebrada cut-and-break steps that mimic the real-life emotional combat of relationships. There may be too much detail for generalist readers, and even devotees will need to pause to digest all of the information given. Still, for fans of dance, music and cultural history, this is the real deal. Bw illus. (Sept. 30) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Thompson . . . inflames us with his reverence for the form. Mikhail Baryshnikov Thompson helps us understand the way artistry and ancestry combine to make an art form of the body. The Washington Post "Elegant. . . Uplifting and timely. . . Thompson rescues tango from a one-dimensional tristesse, mining in its working-class origins emotions of defiance, freedom, self-control, humor, love, and redemption." Foreign Affairs "[Thompson treats tango as narrative art, literature and way of life. . . . By extensively tracing the lines of this 'rich suite of moves,' Thompson's work gives a dance started in the early 1900s the weight of a centuries-old form." Newsweek
About the Author Robert Farris Thompson is the author of, among other works, *Black Gods and Kings*, *African Art in Motion*, and *Flash of the Spirit*. He has been a Ford Foundation Fellow and has mounted major exhibitions of African art at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. He is Col. John Trumbull Professor of the History of Art at Yale University, where he is also Master of Timothy Dwight College. He lives in New Haven, Connecticut.