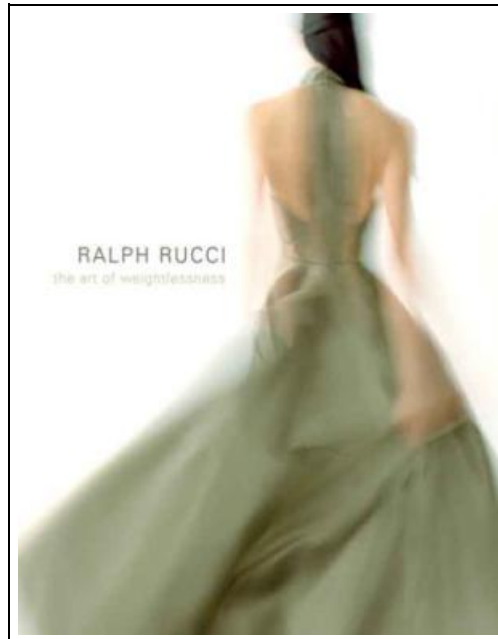


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Reviews

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(Braden Leannon)

RALPH RUCCI: THE ART OF WEIGHTLESSNESS



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Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, 2007. Hard Cover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. New copy still in shrinkwrap, no markings. 224 pages with 150 color illustrations. Working quietly and without much public attention for more than 20 years, American fashion designer Ralph Rucci suddenly became a headline topic in 2002, when he was invited to show his collection at the haute couture in Paris the first American to receive such an invitation since Mainbocher in the 1930s. This sumptuously illustrated book is the first to explore in depth Ruccis life and work, including the inspirations behind the extraordinarily beautiful and very expensive clothes he creates. The contributors to the volume explore many aspects of Ruccis genius and emergence as a master in the fashion world. Valerie Steele places his life and work in the context of modern fashion history and discusses his connections with such figures as Balenciaga and Halston. Patricia Mears closely examines the garments he designs, reveals what makes them so special, and considers influences on his work. Clare Sauro describes Ruccis accessories, which complete the aesthetic vision that his fashions embody. The book is enriched with more than 100 photographs that include runway images, fashion shots of Ruccis clients, Chado Ralph Rucci garments from the collection of The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology and from his own archives, as well as various inspirational objects and fashions. Valerie Steele is director and chief curator, Patricia Mears is deputy director, and Clare Sauro is assistant curator of accessories, all at The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York. Valerie Steele is the author of more than a dozen books, including *The Corset: A Cultural History*; *Fashion, Italian Style*; and *Fifty Years of Fashion*, all published by Yale University Press Size: 9 x 13 Inches.



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