



Charley Harper: 50 Drawings, Coloring Book

By Charley Harper

Pomegranate. Hardcover. Condition: New. 108 pages. Charley Harper's artistic life was all about shape and color. From his early days on a West Virginia farm through his career as a midcentury modernist, Charley (1922-2007) understood the power of black lines in art. He never owned or used a computer to draw. Rather, Charley maintained a collection of drafting tools familiar to the architect and the engineer: compasses, T squares, and french curves with which he applied lines to paper via a ruling pen filled with india ink. Even in his early eighties and challenged by osteoarthritis, he could still draw straight lines and keep a steady width of ink flowing from the nib of his pen for a long distance. I often watched, amazed by the skill and confidence my father had achieved after some sixty years of practice. Many of Charley's most complex images were created between the late 1970s and the beginning of this century. Some pictured entire ecosystems rather than individual creatures or several creatures interacting. These massive images, especially the ten huge paintings commissioned by the National Park Service that required a year each to paint, are marriages of clever design and stunning colors. These images,...



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