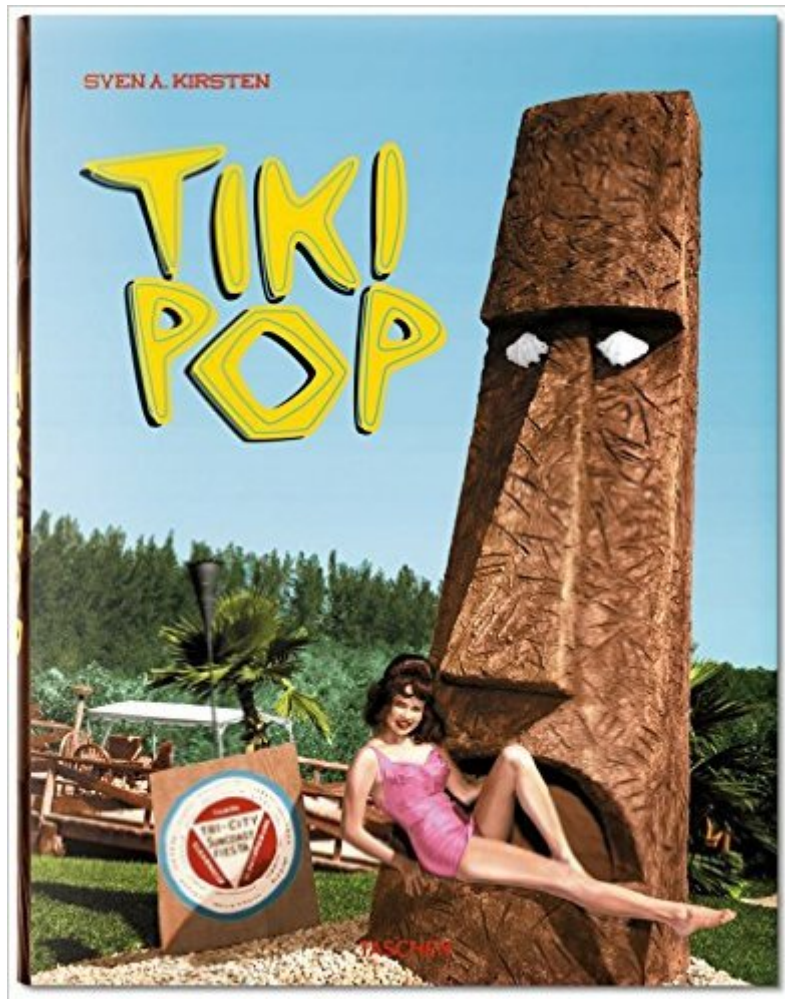


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# Tiki Pop: America Imagines Its Own Polynesian Paradise



## Synopsis

Polynesian pop icon: How Tiki became an American dream — Urban islands and bamboo hideaways set the stage for a pop culture phenomenon like no other. In mid-century America, the imaginative appeal of Tiki penetrated fashion, music, eating, drinking, and architecture. Published in connection with an exhibition at the prestigious Musée du quai Branly in Paris, Tiki Pop traces the development of Tiki as romantic vision and cultural appropriation. Follow Tiki from James Cook's first Pacific Island expeditions, through Gauguin's exotic paintings, Hollywood jungle fantasies, and elaborate temples erected to celebrate Tiki as the god of recreation. With hundreds of previously unpublished images, Tiki the pop icon unfolds from its earliest, enthusiastic beginnings to its spectacular downfall in the dawning awareness of the Western world's colonial misdeeds. This book is the culmination of the extensive research of Sven Kirsten, urban archaeologist, Tiki sage, and author of earlier TASCHEN books, *The Book of Tiki* and *Tiki Modern*, which first recovered the figure of Tiki from obscurity. In his widely lauded graphic style, Kirsten places venerable ancient godheads next to their Polynesian pop counterparts, movie posters next to matchboxes, comic strips next to Robinson Crusoe illustrations. The result is at once a visual feast, a piece of cultural history, and a tribute to a very particular vision of paradise. — Text in English and French

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I must confess that I am a bit of a Tikiphile and I owe a lot of what I know to Sven's other works (The

Book of Tiki and Tiki Modern), much like the reviewer above I was a little hesitant about Tiki Pop. I wondered what Kirsten could possibly bring to light after his previous books, but being such a fan of the genre I purchased the book anyway. I have to say that not only has Kirsten expanded on the knowledge he dropped in his other books, he has created something that can stand on its own as well and perhaps the best "art" book of his trilogy. The sheer amount of content is overwhelming and could take a very long time to truly digest and appreciate. Something that I've personally been enjoying is the section devoted to the pre-tiki period as well as the one devoted to the magic of film sets and how that crossed over into restaurant and bar decorating. All of these are elements that Kirsten has touched upon in his other books, but here he gives new and more detailed insight into how all of these elements stood on their own and then helped to create the wonderfully American Polynesian Pop culture known as Tiki. Of course (like all of Kirsten's books) every page is filled with amazing photographs and vintage artwork detailing the development of the style and culture, which brings me to the physical beauty of this book. Taschen always does a wonderful job, but Tiki Pop is truly a masterpiece. From the color saturation of the images to the paper itself everything about this book says quality. It's not just an art book, but a work of art in itself that can be handed down for generations. Whether you are already interested/involved in Tiki/Polynesian pop culture, new to the subject or just looking for an orgy for your eyes Tiki Pop will not disappoint.

I'm a tiki buff, and I've got a library full of books on the subject, including Sven's other master work, The Book of Tiki. I was concerned that there wasn't going to be much new in here, since he already did such a thorough coverage of the subject. I had nothing to worry about. Every page of this book has some ephemera, photo, or detail that I hadn't seen before. It's a masterpiece! This book easily outshines many \$100+ art books in terms of both quality and quantity. It's beeyewteeful! If you can only have one book in your tiki library, this is, without a doubt, the one to get. If you can have two, pick up Book of Tiki (if you can find it for less than \$200!).

This is a hefty volume devoted to all things including places, music, artwork, collectibles and much more. The authors also explore the rise and decline of Tiki culture but the real focus here is on the many wonderful images devoted to Tiki. With full color throughout and an excellent hardcover binding, this is a worthwhile purchase for both new and old fans alike. Very fun book!

Sven Kirsten has outdone himself. This book is huge...it's oversized and chock full of photos. While the multilingual text is minimal, the book delivers on the major selling point...the imagery. It traces

the American Polynesian craze through the last century from its authentic origins to its campy offspring. Full of vintage photos, ads, menus, etc., it conveys the breadth of tiki culture with both context and conclusions. I held off buying the book until I'd seen it in person and was sold before I'd turned 3 pages. A great companion to *The Book of Tiki* and its slightly less attractive sibling, *Tiki Modern*, *Tiki Pop* emerges as the premier tome of the trilogy. I think this will be the definitive book from here on out.

A "must have" book, not just for the followers of the Polynesian Pop/Tiki movement in America but for all American History and American nostalgia buffs as well. Thought provoking on the Polynesian influence in America, not just during the mid-century post WWII era but also the pre WWII Polynesian influence and history on the North American continent. The book covers the "South Seas" cinema genre as well. If anyone doubted this Pacific Island influence on American, Kristen and his collaborators have drawn more than enough evidence to prove otherwise. Between all three of his books, including "*The Book of Tiki*" and "*Tiki Modern*", also by Taschen, this influence is fascinating. A look into the subconscious of America, questioning the American dream of having a family, owning a home a getting a well-paid job OR escaping from it! These faux Polynesian temples of bars, restaurants, theme parks, motel resorts or bowling alleys were the perfect escape and it is making a comeback thanks to books like *Tiki Pop*. The photos within, like many Taschen books are eye-candy for the mind and soul. Five Stars!

the minute this thing was announced by taschen, i got excited. now that it's in my hands, i'm ecstatic! blown away.if you're reading this, you're already a tiki fan and likely have a shelf full of books on the subject. don't kid yourself, you're going to buy this thing. and maybe squirrel away a second copy for when it goes out of print to sell for over \$200.i'm going to depart from a normal review and not talk about the content, but rather the book itself. the book of tiki is a classic (even if i only own the softcover) and tiki modern was good, but not as breathtaking as the original. in terms of the graphic design and production of the book itself, however, it raised the bar considerably. the design of tiki pop follows much in the vein of tiki modern by way of look and feel, but the paper, in particular, is way way classier. taschen when with uncoated matte instead of the usual semi-gloss. i haven't taken the book home yet to compare, but it would appear that they are both the same form factor.just buy it. it's freaking gorgeous.

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