



The Lure of Gold: An Artistic and Cultural History

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Human fascination with gold is as old as recorded history. We don't know for sure when the first human picked up a gold nugget and thought, "Hey, this is pretty cool." However, flakes of gold have been found in Paleolithic caves dating back as far as 40,000 B.C. Most archaeological evidence shows that humans who came into contact with gold were impressed by the metal. Later on in history, the ancient Greeks viewed gold as a social status symbol and as a form of glory amongst the immortal gods and demigods. Mortal humans could use gold as a sign of wealth and gold was also a form of currency. Contrary to what you might think, the Olympics tradition of giving out gold medals to victors did not begin until the modern Olympics and has little to do with Greek tradition. In *The Lure of Gold* (Abbeville, \$75) archaeometallurgist Hans-Gert Bachmann journeys through six glittering millennia of artistic and cultural history, from Egypt's gold-tipped obelisks to the Kremlin's gilded domes. More amusing are the stories of the Roman general Mark Antony, who preferred to use a gold chamber pot and the legendary king El Dorado who ruled in the Colombian Andes and coated himself in gold dust to appease the demon of Lake Guatavita. Organized by historical epoch, this lavishly illustrated book examines the meanings of gold across civilizations, as well as techniques for working with gold.

The Lure of Gold by Hans-Gert Bachmann, October 2006, Abbeville Press edition. Hardcover in English - 1 edition. *The Lure of Gold. An Artistic And Cultural History.* 1 edition. This edition was published in October 2006 by Abbeville Press. Discover artworks, explore venues and meet artists. Art UK is the online home for every public collection in the UK. Featuring over 275,000 artworks by over 50,000 artists. Gold was used widely across the ancient world, from the first civilisations of Mesopotamia, Egypt and India to the classical world of ancient Greece and Rome. Buddha. unknown artist.