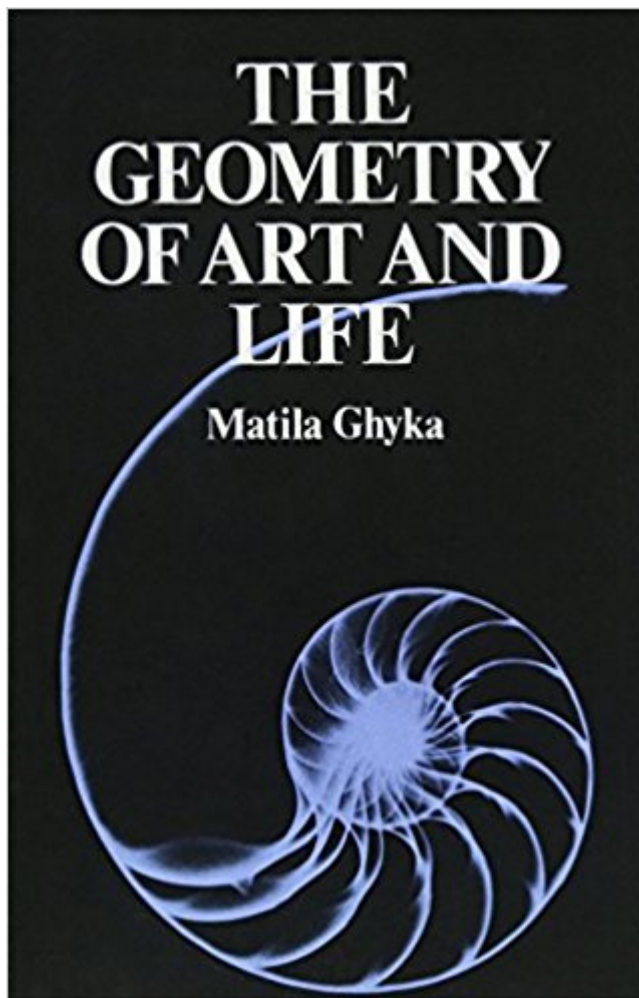The book was found

The Geometry Of Art And Life

Synopsis

Is everything chaos and chance, or is there order, harmony, and proportion in human life, nature, and the finest art? Can one find a natural aesthetic that corresponds to a universal order? If so, what importance can it have for the scientist, artist, or layman? What is the "true" significance of the triangle, rectangle, spiral, and other geometric shapes? These are but a few of the questions that Professor Matila Ghyka deals with in this fascinating book. The author believes that there are such things as "The Mathematics of Life" and "The Mathematics of Art," and that the two coincide. Using simple mathematical formulas, most as basic as Pythagoras' theorem and requiring only a very limited knowledge of mathematics, Professor Ghyka shows the fascinating relationships between geometry, aesthetics, nature, and the human body.Beginning with ideas from Plato, Pythagoras, Archimedes, Ockham, Kepler, and others, the author explores the outlines of an abstract science of space, which includes a theory of proportions, an examination of "the golden section," a study of regular and semi-regular polyhedral, and the interlinking of these various shapes and forms. He then traces the transmission of this spatial science through the Pythagorean tradition and neo-Pythagorism, Greek, and Gothic canons of proportion, the Kabbala, Masonic traditions and symbols, and modern applications in architecture, painting, and decorative art. When we judge a work of art, according to his formulation, we are making it conform to a pattern whose outline is laid down in simple geometrical figures; and it is the analysis of these figures both in art and nature that forms the core of Professor Ghyka's book. He also shows this geometry at work in living organisms. The ample illustrations and figures give concrete examples of the author's analysis: the Great Pyramid and tomb of Rameses IV, the Parthenon, Renaissance paintings and architecture, the work of Seurat, Le Corbusier, and flowers, shells, marine life, the human face, and much more.For the philosopher, scientist, archaeologist, art historian, biologist, poet, and artist as well as the general reader who wants to understand more about the fascinating properties of numbers and geometry, and their relationship to art and life, this is a thought-provoking book.

Book Information

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars   16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #177,301 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #16 in Books > Arts & Photography > Drawing > Pastel   #59 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Philosophy > Aesthetics   #90 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Mathematics > Geometry

Customer Reviews

Is everything chaos and chance, or is there order, harmony, and proportion in human life, nature, and the finest art? Can one find a natural aesthetic that corresponds to a universal order? If so, what importance can it have for the scientist, artist, or layman? What is the "true" significance of the triangle, rectangle, spiral, and other geometric shapes? These are but a few of the questions that Professor Matila Ghyka deals with in this fascinating book. The author believes that there are such things as "The Mathematics of Life" and "The Mathematics of Art," and that the two coincide. Using simple mathematical formulas, most as basic as Pythagoras' theorem and requiring only a very limited knowledge of mathematics, Professor Ghyka shows the fascinating relationships between geometry, aesthetics, nature, and the human body.Beginning with ideas from Plato, Pythagoras, Archimedes, Ockham, Kepler, and others, the author explores the outlines of an abstract science of space, which includes a theory of proportions, an examination of "the golden section," a study of regular and semi-regular polyhedral, and the interlinking of these various shapes and forms. He then traces the transmission of this spatial science through the Pythagorean tradition and neo-Pythagorism, Greek, and Gothic canons of proportion, the Kabbala, Masonic traditions and symbols, and modern applications in architecture, painting, and decorative art. When we judge a work of art, according to his formulation, we are making it conform to a pattern whose outline is laid down in simple geometrical figures; and it is the analysis of these figures both in art and nature that forms the core of Professor Ghyka's book. He also shows this geometry at work in living organisms. The ample illustrations and figures give concrete examples of the author's analysis: the Great Pyramid and tomb of Rameses IV, the Parthenon, Renaissance paintings and architecture, the work of Seurat, Le Corbusier, and flowers, shells, marine life, the human face, and much more.For the philosopher, scientist, archaeologist, art historian, biologist, poet, and artist as well as the general reader who wants to understand more about the fascinating properties of numbers and geometry, and their relationship to art and life, this is a thought-provoking book.Dover unabridged and slightly corrected republication of the 1946 edition.

Ghyka leads the reader through the incredible diversity of the ever-present Golden Ratio in art, architecture, and biology. The 9 chapters are arranged in a kind of progression, covering these topics:1. Proportion, Rhythm, Architecture is Ã¢Â Âœfrozen musicÃ¢Â Â•2. Golden Section (phi), esthetic rectangles, Fibonacci series ratios3. Regular and Star polygons, Great Pyramid, Sublime Triangle4. Pythagorean solids, 13 Archimedian semi-regular solids, 4-d hypersolids5. Shapes that fill a plane or 3-d space, asymmetry and energy states6. Logarithmic spiral growth, lifeÃ¢Â Â™s pentagonal symmetry, human proportions7. Gothic Master Diagram, how masonÃ¢Â Â™s marks relate to phi diagrams8. Harmonic Analysis of some examples of Sculpture, Architecture, Painting9. Dynamic Symmetry and Cubism, Pointillism, FunctionalismOverall, the text is straightforward, the math is no more complex than high school courses, and the principles are illustrated with abundant photos. The hardest task for the reader is visualizing some of the complex diagrams, but one can skim or glance at the difficult ones and still follow the text.Although a few of the asides about least action and other principles appear to be outdated, there are several eternal insights. The one that impressed me most was his thorough explanation of 5 as the key to living organisms whose cellular growth is by Ã¢Â Âœintussusceptionâ¢Â Â• (from the inside outward) while 6 is the key to inorganic matter whose crystals grow by agglutination (additions to the outside of the structure).This book is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand how math links the human mind and the physical universe.

This excellent book, written in 1946, still remains in print, and for good reason. Ghyka shows mathematically that objects in nature are not randomly formed, but all have regularity and harmony.Beginning with the concepts of ratio and proportion in the plane, the Golden Section, and then to regular polygons and geometric shapes in 3 dimensions, Ghyka demonstrates these patterns with simple algebra and geometry, and plenty of diagrams.He explains the logarithmic spiral and its role in harmonious growth in nature, with photographs and diagrams. He shows how ancient builders used the Golden Section in their architecture and in their art. This book is a wonderful weaving of philosophy, mathematics and science, covering a lot of ground, and is very well-written. It is nothing like trying to wade through H.M.S. Coxeter! This book would be a fine companion to Cook's "The Curves of Life," fleshing out the concepts presented there.This little book is a gem -- there is a tremendous amount of information packed into its 174 pages, yet it is understandable to the layperson. And it is aptly titled. It truly is about "The Geometry of Art and Life."If you are one of those observant persons who is looking for a more detailed understanding of the underlying patterns in nature, art and architecture, and you don't mind spending a little time

going through some simple algebra and geometry, this is the book for you.

Interesting & Complicated Read.Happy to add this to my library.Thank You!

Why are beautiful works of art beautiful? What makes a striking piece of architecture striking? Why is it we find such pleasure in admiring a flower, or a tree? Rather than addressing these questions from a subjective standpoint, Ghyka analyzes the mathematical geometry of classical art, architecture, and biology and attempts to find a common thread to bind them all together. It's a wonderful mix of mathematics and history with a touch of philosophy to season it well. The math is simple, the sort of high-school geometry we've all had and forgotten, but it's critical for the understanding of his argument. If you hate math, you're probably not going to enjoy this book, but if you love art, and are willing to entertain an opinion as to _why_ you love it, I'd recommend suffering through it anyway - I've certainly developed a deeper appreciation of art and aesthetics in reading this book, and think it could be very valuable to serious (or not so serious) art lovers and artists.

Amazing how nature is viewed from the concept of geometry and art forms. user friendly and well referenced, excellent illustrations as well

The Geometry Of Art And Life by Matila Ghyka is an interesting book that pertains primarily to ancient information regarding the fiine arts. Geometry unites all aspects of this book. All aspects of geometry are utilized to manage the organic and inorganic in time and space.

buen libro y excelente precio, una sorpresa el encontrarlo. En cuanto al envÃo fue de acuerdo a lo planificado y reportado.

This was a Christmas gift I gave a school teacher who loved it.

Download to continue reading...

Geometry for Students and Parents: Geometry problems and solutions Modern Geometry â •
Methods and Applications: Part I: The Geometry of Surfaces, Transformation Groups, and Fields
(Graduate Texts in Mathematics) (Pt. 1) Spectral Geometry of the Laplacian: Spectral Analysis and
Differential Geometry of the Laplacian Geometry: Concepts and Applications, Practice Workbook
(GEOMETRY: CONCEPTS & APPLIC) Geometry: Concepts & Skills, Grade 10: Notetaking Guide
(Geometry: Concepts and Skills) Geometry, Study Guide and Intervention Workbook (MERRILL

GEOMETRY) Holt Geometry California: Homework and Practice Workbook Geometry Taxicab Geometry: An Adventure in Non-Euclidean Geometry (Dover Books on Mathematics) Order In Chaos: How The Mandelbrot Set & Fractal Geometry Help Unlock the Secrets of The Entire Universe! (Mandelbrot Set, Fractal Geometry) McDougal Littell Jurgensen Geometry: Answer Key for Study Guide for Reteaching & Practice Geometry Geometry (Holt McDougal Larson Geometry) Geometry, Grades 9-12: Mcdougal Littell High School Math (McDougal Littell High Geometry) Glencoe Geometry, Student Edition (MERRILL GEOMETRY) Geometry, Student Edition (MERRILL GEOMETRY) Dr. Math Introduces Geometry: Learning Geometry is Easy! Just ask Dr. Math! Glencoe Geometry, Practice Workbook (GEOMETRY: CONCEPTS & APPLIC) Geometry, Homework Practice Workbook (MERRILL GEOMETRY) Geometry: Integration, Applications, Connections Student Edition (MERRILL GEOMETRY) McDougal Littell High School Math Florida: Student Edition Geometry 2004 (Larson Geometry 2001) Geometry, Noteables: Interactive Study Notebook with Foldables (MERRILL GEOMETRY)