

Nomads of Mauritania

SERIES IN ANTHROPOLOGY

About the author

Brigitte Himpan, Artist Painter, obtained a Master's degree in Fine Arts in 1983 at the University of Paris VIII (France) about the everyday life of the Mauritanian nomads through their usual objects and a post-graduate pre-PhD's degree in Philosophy of Art and Culture in 1986 at the University of Panthéon-Sorbonne Paris I (France) concerning the cultural identity of the Mauritanian nomads.

Diane Himpan-Sabatier is a graduate from the Higher Institute of Management (ISG, Paris) in 1994 and from the Higher School of Cinema Studies (ESEC, Paris) in 1996 and the author of a post-graduate pre-PhD's thesis at the School of International High Studies (EHEI, Paris) in 1996.

"An outline and overview of Mauritania, its environment, history, and ways of living, as well as the visual and material culture of its nomadic peoples. It can serve as an introduction for students and others wishing to explore these topics in critically focused, in-depth studies."

Prof. Dr. Henry John Drewal,
Evjue-Bascom Professor of Art History and Afro-American Studies,
University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

"Rather than dismiss this part of the world as a dormant desert devoid of life, the authors detail with delicate nuance complex histories, arts, cultures, quotidian life, and environmental issues of Mauritania."

Dr. Andrea E. Frohne,
Associate Professor of African Art History, Ohio University, USA.

"Nomads of Mauritania deals with the cultural identity as well as the future of the Mauritanian nomads. It highlights their history considering climate change, the importance and cultural ramifications of what the authors describe as their "geometrical-abstract art" in everyday life, and their future. This interdisciplinary study is at the same time erudite, extremely instructive, well-documented, comprehensive, and easy-to-read. It should be applauded for its clarity, carefully drawn maps and beautiful illustrations. This fascinating essay will appeal to a wide range of people: generalists and specialists as well as students interested in the nomads of Mauritania."

Dr. Thérèse De Raedt,
Associate Professor of French, Department of World Languages and Cultures,
University of Utah, USA.

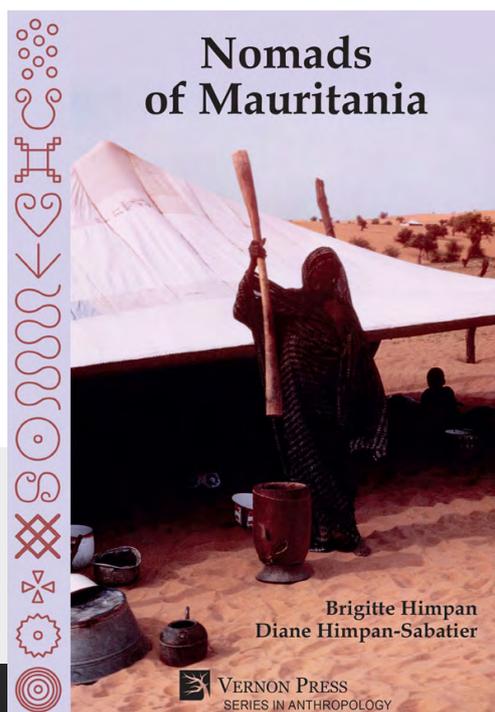
Summary

Nomads of Mauritania aims at understanding the cultural identity (religious beliefs, language, values, relationships with others) of the Mauritanian nomads through their geographical environment, an original history, their lifestyle, caste system, diet, housing and crafts and how it is revealed by their art, materially expressed on the everyday objects and the body and defined for the first time as geometrical-abstract and respectively as ephemeral usual art and ephemeral living art. Furthermore, what has become of the nomads of Mauritania with the climate warming and the economic and cultural globalization and to what extent are they still the pillars and heart of the Mauritanian society of today?

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SUBJECTS Social & cultural anthropology, Ethnography

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