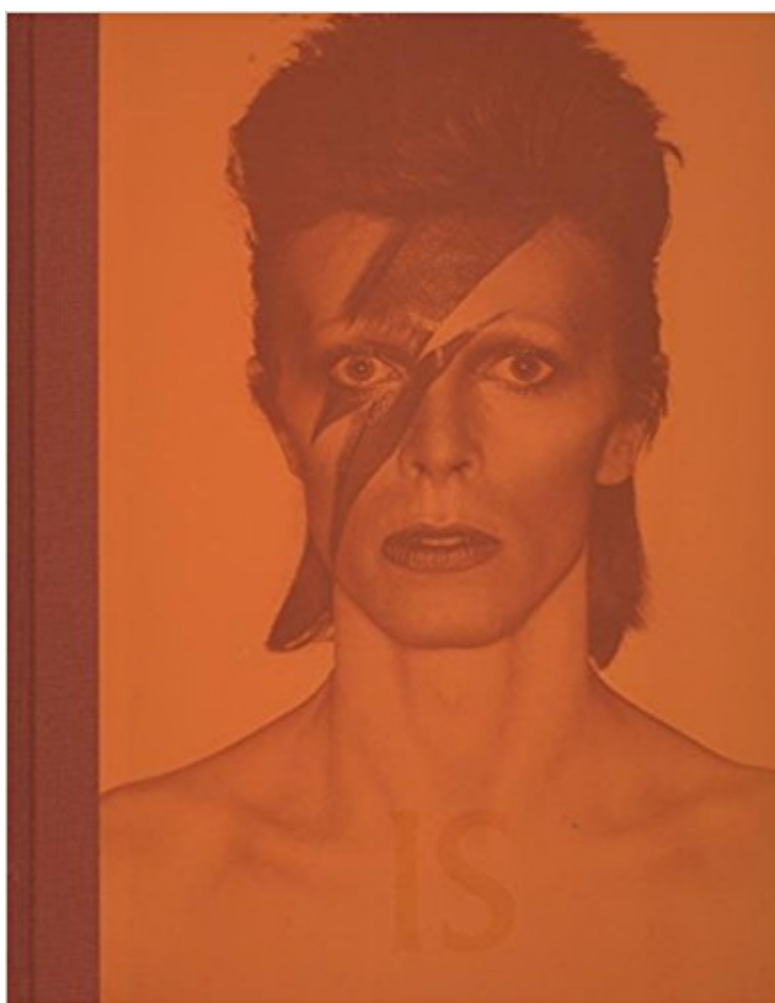


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# David Bowie Is... (Museum Of Contemporary Art, Chicago: Exhibition Catalogues)



## Synopsis

David Bowie's career as a pioneering artist spanned nearly 50 years and brought him international acclaim. He continues to be cited as a major influence on contemporary artists and designers working across the creative arts. This book, published to accompany the blockbuster international exhibition launched at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, is the only volume that grants access to Bowie's personal archive of performance costumes, ephemera, and original design artwork by the artist, bringing it together to present a completely new perspective on his creative work and collaborations. The book traces his career from its beginnings in London, through the breakthroughs of *Space Oddity* and *The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars*, and on to his enormous impact on 20th-century avant-garde music and art. Essays by V&A curators on Bowie's London, image, and influence on the fashion world are complemented by Howard Goodall on musicology; Camille Paglia on gender and decadence, and Jon Savage on Bowie's relationship with William Burroughs and his fans. The more than 300 color illustrations include personal and performance photographs, album covers, costumes, original lyric sheets, and much more.

**Praise for *David Bowie Is*:**

- “Perusing *David Bowie Is* (V&A Publishing, distributed by Abrams), the exhibition's catalog, with its procession of poses and costumes and weighty essays tracking the cross-references to pop culture and high art, you get a sense of how much hard work it took to be Mr. Bowie.”
- The New York Times*: “The fans of 50 years or those making discoveries in retrospect will be intrigued by the accompanying book *David Bowie Is* that is far more than a fanzine.”
- The New York Times*: “Lends context and picks away at Bowie with such insight that it's a rare hagiography with soul.”
- Chicago Tribune*: “Combining top-notch articles on the singer/actor's life and work with official images and reproductions of his fashion and associated ephemera, the hefty, mango-colored book is nothing short of a treasure trove of all things Bowie; a one-stop smorgasbord for the eyes whose pictorials chronicle the groundbreaking star from Ziggy Stardust to Thin White Duke to Heathen and every personality in between.”
- Examiner.com*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This companion piece to an exhibition at London's Victoria and Albert Museum explores the iconography, fashion, and music of pop icon David Bowie. Drawn to rock'n'roll as a rebellion against his suburban London upbringing, Bowie's career has been one of constant reinvention and innovation. As a musician and composer, his influences are wide ranging: he borrows as much from contemporaries such as The Rolling Stones and German synthesizer bands Neu! and Kraftwerk as from composers Kurt Weill and frequent collaborator Brian Eno. He is also heavily influenced by broader culture, notably adopting the cut up method often employed by William Burroughs, while being "strongly influenced" by the video work of Andy Warhol. Beyond music, however, Bowie cultivated a constantly shifting sense of style—most famously as his glam rock, alien alter-ego Ziggy Stardust—his various costumes were "Dadaist in impulse and Surrealist in conception and execution." Particularly striking, however, was the cobweb body-suit he wore for The 1980 Floor Show, which features two glitter covered mannequin hands that seem to be fondling his chest as a kind of camp provocation. Indeed, as Camille Paglia notes, Bowie came to embody "the shaman and prophet who crossed into forbidden sexual terrain." (Apr.)

...a treasure trove of all things Bowie - a one-stop smorgasbord for the eyes whose pictorials chronicle the groundbreaking star from Ziggy Stardust to Thin White Duke to Heathen and every personality in between. Examiner.com May 20th 2013; The fans of 50 years or those making discoveries in retrospect will be intrigued by the accompanying book "David Bowie Is Inside" that is far more than a fanzine, Suzy Menkes, New York Times, March 18th 2013 ...lends context and picks away at Bowie with such insight...that it's a rare hagiography with soul. Chicago Tribune, April 26th 2013

Just fantastic. How did I not know about this coming to the States??? Bring it back!!! I thought no this is a must have for Bowie collectors. Who gets their own traveling art exhibit? It's often overlooked that Bowie had a huge influence on fashion. Fashion, styling was just as much a part of his art as his music/lyrics, writing, performances, staging, painting, life! I recently read an article from the Spiders Era where someone is interviewing Bowie apparently before he goes on television for yet a different interview. He describes Bowie entering in some green quilted suit with yellow trousers and boots. After a bit, they break, so Bowie can go get dressed for the television interview and it hits the writer of this article that what Bowie entered wearing, that caused the various stage hands and cameramen to stop and gawk, was indeed just his "street clothes." Let's fact it, the man could make jeans and a t-shirt rawk! This book is a visual of the touring art exhibit that documents his influence on fashion through the years. Gorgeous. Worth the buy in my opinion.

I bought this as a Christmas fan for my son, who is a big Bowie fan. It's a fascinating book from so many perspectives. The photographs are absolutely stunning. The quality of the print is excellent. And, the subject is so interesting - whether you like Bowie's music, his life, and his art or the art in which he stars as the subject. It's quite the collector's piece. We've all been reading it. Great purchase.

This could stand in as an actual biography of Bowie and his creative process. It covers EVERYTHING. You can flip thru it at any point and read. It is jam packed with photos of him in all his fashionable glory. The photos range from actual photos of concert costumes taken for his museum retrospective, set designs and drawings from his concerts, videos and films, plus tons, TONS of luxurious pictures of him from photo shoots, magazine spreads and candid shots. It's a good fashion book, art book, biography of an individual artist and music book. It weighs to the visual side (Bowie is a VISUAL, visionary artist) in presentation, but there is plenty of well-written factual and theoretical information in tow. If you really love Bowie this will only make you love him more. The price is good too. Here is a video review of the book[...]

I wish I could see the traveling exhibition and maybe I will someday but until that time this is a good substitute. Interesting stories and information about the pop icon along with lots of pictures, including some of his stage costumes and several manuscripts of his song lyrics and drawings. He is and will always be something of a mystery but this is a good step towards understanding him and

his work. It's a gorgeous big thick coffee table book too.

Fantastic! So happy to find this and similar books on !! I agree with all the nice long reviews, so I won't write a long one! If you are a David Bowie fan, you'll love this!

Beautifully bound book of David Bowies life artfully displayed to be treasured by million of generations to come!

If you like David Bowie, this book is a must-have for your library. Having not been able to go to the V&A show in London, I was very happy to know that at least I could have the book with all the pictures from the exhibits. If I actually owned a coffee table, it would be on there. Get it. You won't regret it!

I have been a big Bowie fan for 40 years and seen 13 concerts, this book is fascinating. I have read many books on Bowie and this one has a whole new take. It is about the Victoria and Albert Museum Archival Exhibit in London England. While there are many of the usual photos one sees, there is a lot of new material and the stories behind them. The book has original artwork, handwritten lyrics and most fascinating Bowie costumes from his career. The latter are displayed with the story of their designers and tours explained. This is a great book not just for Bowie fans but a look at a piece of important music history.bowie

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