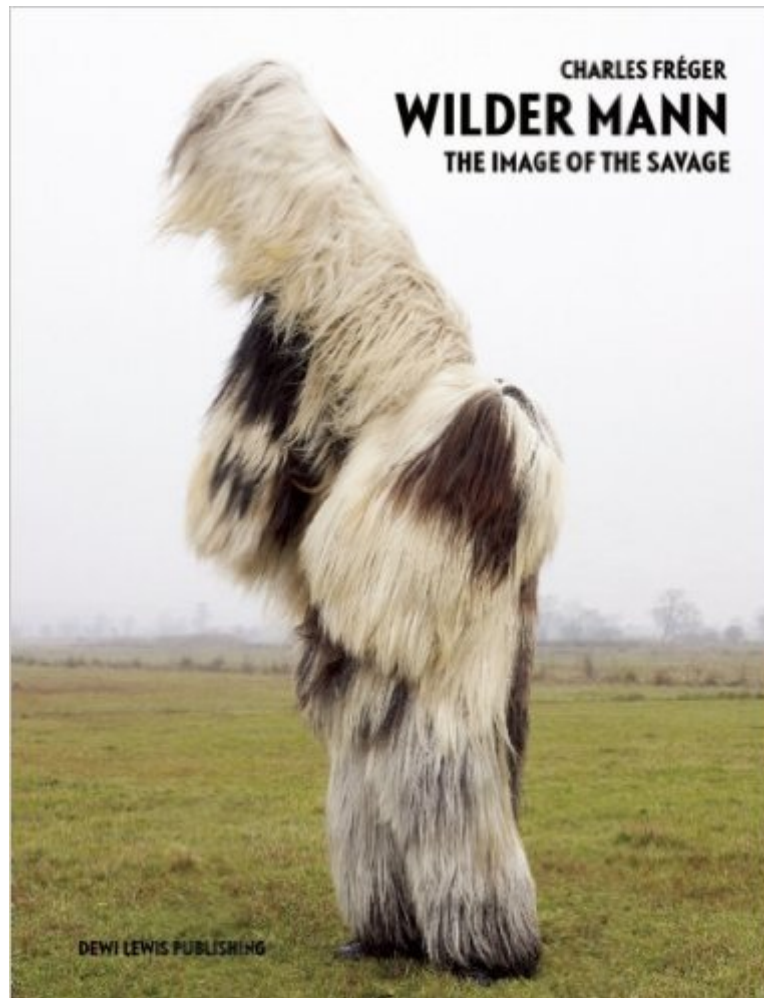


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# Wilder Mann



## Synopsis

The rituals are centuries old and celebrate the seasonal cycle, fertility, life, and death. People literally put themselves into the skin of the "savage," in masquerades that stretch back centuries. By becoming a bear, a goat, a stag, a wild boar, a man of straw, a devil, or a monster with jaws of steel, these people celebrate the cycle of life and seasons. The costumes amaze with their extraordinary diversity and prodigious beauty. Work on this project took leading French photographer Charles Fr ger to eighteen European countries in search of the mythological figure of the Wild Man.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A stunning book of photography featuring masking and mumming costumes throughout Europe. The introduction alone is a masterpiece - a harsh critique of the emptiness of modern culture and call to turn our attention back to the vibrant ritual customs that still lurk beneath the surface. It was a bold choice to preface the photographs, which are taken against natural backdrops in their respective countries, highlighting the wide diversity of ways in which we conceptualize and dramatize the Other, the wild, the numinous. I cannot recommend this book enough for those interested in folk rituals and archaic masks/costumes, especially anyone who is looking to re-create mumming customs or invent new ones rooted in tradition (such as the recently revived interest in Krampuslauf throughout America).

The beautiful photographs of Charles Fr ger bring alive the remnants of ancient culture that still

survive today all over Europe. We think of Europe today as sophisticated and cosmopolitan, but through the medium of special celebration we are allowed a glimpse into a more primitive past, reminding us that European culture was not so different from other cultures where today the "wildness" is still much closer to the surface. I was disappointed not to see some of the primal British costumes, or "skins" as they are called in this book, like "Jack-in-the Green", the "Horn" dancers, or the Mari Lwyd of Wales, but their Continental counterparts are certainly here. I recommend this book to anyone interested in folklore, anthropology, or even costume design.

What a great photobook. These costumes of demons, animal gods and imaginary spirits and creatures created for various European Folk Festivals is an imaginative and rich viewing experience. The costumes can be in turn creepy, grotesque, funny or truly bizarre. There's horns, fur, leather, bells, bones, woven fibers, scrap fabrics, junk - these things are made up of just about anything. Proportions and looks vary from giant big headed monsters, to inflated sack people, to wonky tree covered pranksters, to people that look like the Minotaur. For me the best aspect is that it is a VISUAL art book. Meaning the majority of the books is plates. It's page after page of the costumes. The majority of pictures are presented just like what you see on the cover - a single LOOK standing in a natural but unobtrusive background. Everything has been printed on GREAT paper, surrounded by just a enough white border. In the back there are pages quickly delineating the meaning and folklore behind certain groups of costumes, their mythology and what festivals they are used for and where. The BIG practical bonus to the guide in the back is that the author provides dates for each festival! The book is a little compact. Maybe 1 or 2 inches bigger would have made it perfect - but you can tell the whole project was done in the highest caliber and the price is reasonable for something so lovingly done.

Even more amazing than the National Geographic article that I saw about it (that prompted me to search for the book). Great photos and commentary to describe what each is about -- this is a part of us as humans that has long been neglected/denied/ignored but these photos resonate deeply with that "Wilder" part in all of us that we need to embrace and seek to understand! The book seller delivered very promptly and the book was in perfect, new condition!

A wonderful photo book of lingering traditions. I could wish the explanations of the customs went into a little more detail, but for the number of photos included, that would make this book massive. A very enjoyable browse and makes me want to seek out more on the fascinating customs depicted.

great book with surprising pictures of leftover tribal European traditions, often you feel like looking at African or Indian tribal costumes, amazingly well documented with good background information about the rites and habits which come with the costumes. Several friends were so amazed by my copy, that they ordered the book for themselves

This book, although difficult to find, catalogs some of the most interesting "characters" of European traditions. The images are of high quality, and the costumes are really quite beyond the realm of imagination. I do wish there were more images and more background information, but this is a remarkable document of the human spirit.

Wilder Mann contains a lot of stunning photos of the wild man tradition kept alive in ceremonies, plays and parades throughout Europe today. The gorgeous images are accompanied by some notes on the particular traditions and legends shown. I found the subject fascinating and was left wanting more.

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