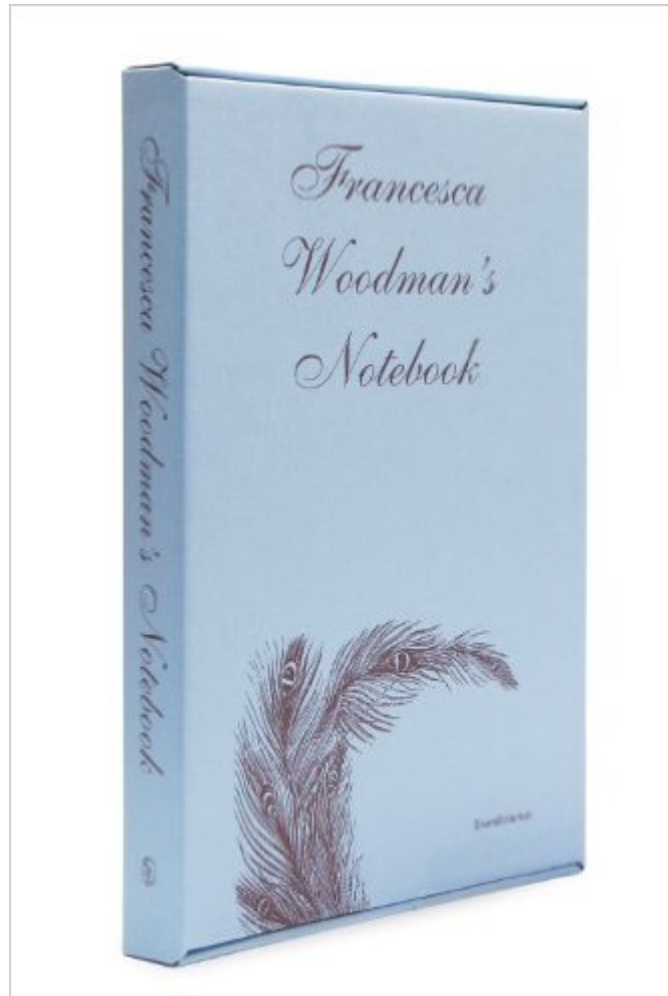


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# Francesca Woodman's Notebook



## Synopsis

The American photographer Francesca Woodman (1958–1981) spent a brief portion of her childhood in the countryside around Florence, living with her parents in an old farm whose dilapidated interiors were later to influence the backdrops of her mesmerizing self-portraits. In 1977 she returned to Italy, studying in Rome on a year-long RISD honors program. During this tenure, Woodman found five tattered school exercise books, printed in 1906, side-stapled and inscribed in fine cursive penmanship with notes from physics lectures or poems in English and Italian. To these evocative objects, Woodman—already fully formed as the photographer we recognize and admire today—added her characteristic black-and-white photographs, either as small paper prints or as prints made on transparent film that allows the writing beneath to show through, further embellishing them with her own captions or remarks. This facsimile edition of one of these notebooks was selected for publication by Woodman’s mother and father as an artist’s book of particular beauty and revelatory content that provides unprecedented insight into the emphatically narrative logic of Woodman’s photography. Housed in a lightweight printed box, it includes an afterword by George Woodman, Francesca’s father, that contextualizes the work within the photographer’s artist’s book production.

## Book Information

Paperback: 24 pages

Publisher: Silvana Editoriale; Box Blg edition (November 30, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 8836621171

ISBN-13: 978-8836621170

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 8.5 x 12.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.4 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (12 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This very small notebook comes in an oversized box. It is really more like a pamphlet than a proper

book. While the superimposition of the photographs is quite beautiful, the text is in Italian and appears to be routine school work. There is a very short essay by Woodman's father. This would only be worthwhile for a Woodman collector who wants everything they can find about the artist. For a non-specialist, one of the catalogues of her work would be a better purchase.

This thin and at first glance not very significant little book seems to add to the overall mystique that surrounds Francesca's work. It allows us yet another glance at the series of notebooks she made out of antique store finds of old journal books from her year in Italy while at RISD. Pretty well known territory.....but here's the hidden jewel. It is impossible to not make the connection between Francesca's work, and that of Deborah Turbeville, who she was said to almost idolize, this is documented in Cory Keller's essay in the S F MOMA catalog of their exhibit. If you look closely at this little notebook, you can see on the cover, scratched out heavily in pencil...."for Deborah Turbeville", and inside several cryptic lines to her, as well as a phone number.....WHOA.....It is then that the lightbulb comes on.....This was meant to be her "calling card" to Deborah, to either ask for work with her, or simply introduce herself. Deborah's phone call was never forthcoming, and the little book never sent to her.....WAS THIS AN S.O.S ?.....HOW DIFFERENT WOULD EVENTS HAVE TURNED OUT IF THIS CONNECTION WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE, AND FRANCESCA'S WORK COULD THEN HAVE BEEN GIVEN A MUCH LARGER AUDIENCE ? Just had to post this, and ask that question, as NO ONE ELSE SEEMS TO HAVE. As I sit here and look at Deborah Turbeville's book, THE FASHION PICTURES, I see a career, and a life that could have just as well been Francesca's.....WHAT A PITY THEY NEVER MET.....Plus the fact that the pics in this little book are really strong , and totally stand on their own, as do so many of the pics from the notebooks.THIS IS THE BOOKS TRUE SIGNIFICANCE FOR THOSE OF US WHO LOVE BOTH ARTISTS WORKS.

This is a very thin pamphlet that looks more like a book of liner notes one would find in a music box set. It is housed in a MUCH larger cardboard box which is the one you see in the main photo that is just useless and misleading.Even the pamphlet, or actual book, is very small and contains only a few pictures and is maybe ten pages long. All in all just a disappointing cash grab. This thing is normally 50 dollars! I can buy one of her actual books of photography for that. I will definitely return this item.

I just received my copy of Francesca Woodman's Notebook, and overall I'm quite pleased. I love

Woodman's work and nothing like this has been produced before. It is a beautifully printed facsimile limited edition packaged in an elegant, powder blue box. The printing, done by Trifolio in Italy, is superb. Although the book itself is slight, and left me wanting to see more, up until now this material has not been seen. And at \$33 ('s price) it seems like a steal. The combination of the original book, Francesca Woodman's cryptic handwritten notes and haunting photographs leave the viewer with more questions than answers. As George Woodman talks about in his short text, it seems possible that she may have intended this book to be letter, one that was never sent. In my opinion it is a must have for any serious Francesca Woodman fan, and gives special insight into the mind of this incredible artist. Another Woodman notebook is included in the Woodman retrospective exhibition that is currently on view at SFMoMA; I look forward to seeing it in person when it comes to the Guggenheim NY next year.

It's a nice book but it is really small, Wish it had more content and printed on a better type of paper. I was kinda disappointed at what I really got for the price that I paid. The boxing is big, but the contents are small and really not too much within the contents either. Nevertheless if you are a big fan of this artist you will enjoy it in your collection.

Disappointing. Appears to be another attempt by Woodman's family to cash in on her death. The paper stock is poor quality and little thought has gone into the production of the book beyond the packaging which I see as a device to hide the lack of content. Don't waste your money.

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