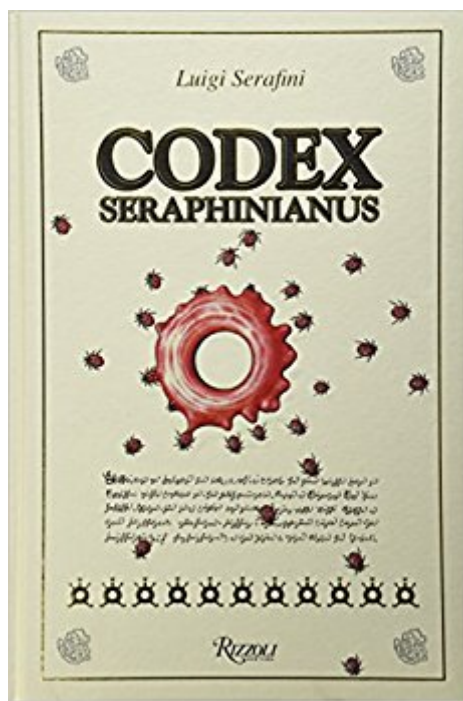


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Codex Seraphinianus



Synopsis

An extraordinary and surreal art book, this edition has been redesigned by the author and includes new illustrations. Ever since the Codex Seraphinianus was first published in 1981, the book has been recognized as one of the strangest and most beautiful art books ever made. This visual encyclopedia of an unknown world written in an unknown language has fueled much debate over its meaning. Written for the information age and addressing the import of coding and decoding in genetics, literary criticism, and computer science, the Codex confused, fascinated, and enchanted a generation. While its message may be unclear, its appeal is obvious: it is a most exquisite artifact. Blurring the distinction between art book and art object, this anniversary edition-redesigned by the author and featuring new illustrations-presents this unique work in a new, unparalleled light. With the advent of new media and forms of communication and continuous streams of information, the Codex is now more relevant and timely than ever. A special limited and numbered deluxe edition that includes a signed print is also available.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (187 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

We owe this 20-year old piece of high fantasy to a Roman architect, Luigi Serafini. This is a large book of splendid, eerie illustrations of an impossible world in a parallel universe, with copious comments in an incomprehensible language in an imaginary script. A world at once familiar, inhabited as it is by humans, and hauntingly different, with its very own laws of physics, its strange fauna, its stranger flora, its unimaginable society, technology, even mathematics. The Codex Seraphinianus is to that world what Diderot's Encyclopaedia is to ours, only lavishly and artistically

illustrated. A feast for the eyes, a tease for the brain, to which you will find yourselves drawn again and again, and again, in ever renewed fascination. It is a particular joy in the Italian edition (published by Franco Maria Ricci of Milan) if you can afford the outrageous price -- some US\$250: hand-made paper, a hard-cover bound in black silk in a box clad in black silk, such luxuries do not come cheaply

The contents are magical, intriguing, enchanting. No problem with the material at all. 5 stars. The presentation and production, however, are flawed almost beyond use. 1 star. The selection of a toned, laid paper for the interior is destructive to the images -- breaking them up, rather than reflecting them whole to the eye. I understand that the original was on this type of paper: it was a trendy choice in the 70s -- and quite the wrong choice for delicate images. Today it is more than wrong. And despite the texture and weight of the paper, there was still considerable "show-through" of images on the back of the sheet AND the next page. The hardcover employs 2 kinds of foil, embossing, and 4-color on a linen finish, and it still manages to look cheap. The grey of the boards showed thru the wonderful yellow of the end papers. The corners of the cover boards came crushed, cause it was shipped in a padded envelope. No dust jacket. No. Dust. Jacket. Even a simple paper sleeve, please. Something to protect it. AND the much-mentioned sticky-mcsticky sticker on the back. You *can* use Benzine to remove it, but i am leaving mine on as the only visual confirmation in the package that, yes, this is indeed a \$125 book.

I've been fascinated with the Codex since I first came across the FMR edition at a small bookshop in Valletta in the 1980s. This edition is very similar to the edition Rizzoli published in 2006, which was distributed exclusively in Italy. The cover is identical, and it is printed on the same luxuriously thick, Italian paper. The chief difference lies in ten additional pages in the beginning that Mr. Serafini contributed for this edition, as well as a newly re-written Decodex. The 2006 edition came with a small pamphlet containing various essays in different languages on the Codex, while in this this addition, the Decodex is limited to a single essay written by Luigi Serafini and translated into English, French, German, Spanish, and Russian. Rizzoli New York has done a fine job reprinting this book for the American market, and would be a fine addition to any book lover's library. Unfortunately, I had purchased this books as a Christmas gift for my brother-in-law but never notified me they ran out-of-stock. You're better off purchasing a copy through an independent bookstore or on alibris.com. If you're looking to obtain one of the strangest books ever published, you're better off buying the Codex elsewhere. Five stars for the book, zero for .

I've seen complaints about the big ugly paper sticker on the back and I was able to take it off with little issue. Here's what you do: Get a bottle of goo gone. Here's where you can find it on : Homax Oz Goo Gone GG12 It's super useful stuff so it's worth buying a whole bottle of it. Step one: Put on some plastic gloves. Goo Gone is somewhat toxic so better safe than sorry. Soak a cotton bud or a cotton ball with goo gone. Step two: gently soak the label with the cotton bud/ball until it's covered in goo gone. You might have to reload the bud/ball to get the label evenly wet. DO NOT WORRY IF YOU GET GOO GONE ON THE COVER ITSELF. DESPITE MAKING IT DARKER IT /WILL/ EVAPORATE. Step three: Wait 10 minutes. Don't try anything before 10 minutes. you should see the goo gone working its way under the border of the sticker. Step four: Take a plastic shim of some sort like a plastic spoon or a guitar pick and gently and slowly work under the label. Once you have enough to grab hold of slowly peel back the sticker at a sharp backwards angle. do not pull up vertically or you might bring the cover with the sticker. If paper residue starts peeling off either use the scraper again or re-wet the area with goo gone. Slow and steady! Step 5: If there's any remaining residue wipe it with some more goo gone from the cotton and lightly scrape away or rub away with your finger (still wearing gloves). I hope that helps! It would be a damn shame if any more people ruin their books because of the publishers dumb idea to put that sticker with such strong adhesive on the back.

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