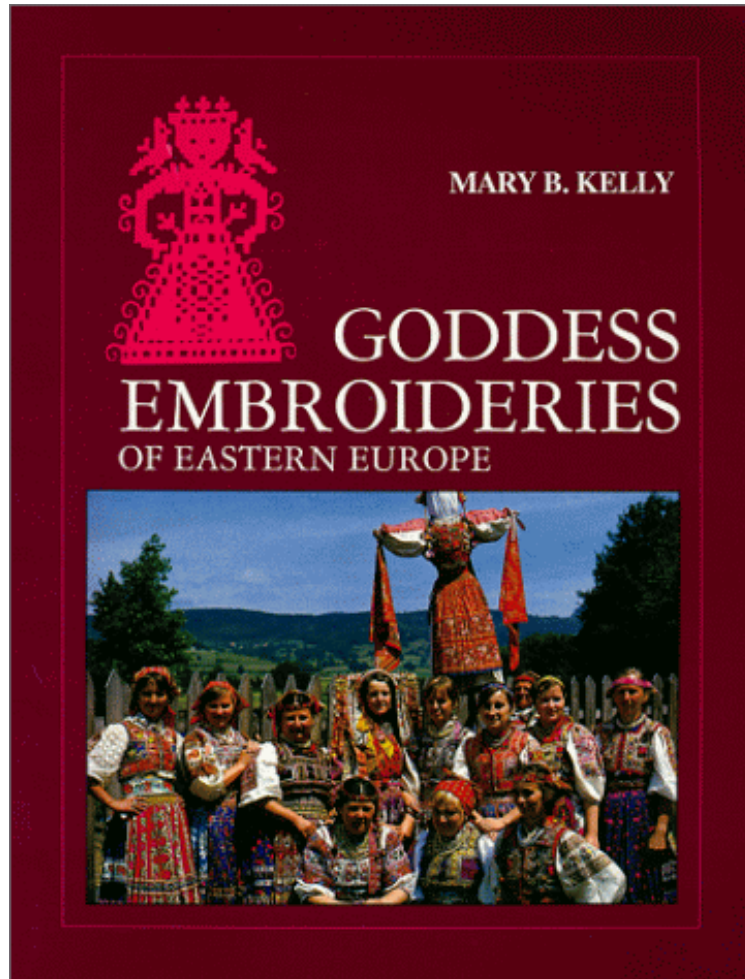


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Goddess Embroideries of Eastern Europe

Mary B Kelly

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Mary B Kelly : Goddess Embroideries of Eastern Europe before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Goddess Embroideries of Eastern Europe:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. One book of a Set of ThreeBy D. JansenBeautiful studies of textiles and motifs that would all but be extinct to future understanding had the task of documenting and traveling to remote areas to speak with those who carry on these traditions not been done by Mary Kelly and her peers. The books contain numerous drawings, pictures and items with, face to face conversations with of those who created them highlighting the historical context of the motifs and textiles. Many of these belong to the rapidly vanishing indigenous tribes located in the most inaccessible areas of what once was the Soviet and Socialist Republics. Anyone interested in the feminine culture of these peoples, even if you are not a textile designer, should read these as they contain the essence of feminine life among smaller nations and rural or roaming tribes; the woven speech of their very nature of existence, culture, world views, whether Pagan, or Christian, either Orthodox or sometimes Roman, influence.10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Resource!By LarissaThis book is a great resource for students of

anthropology as well as artists and craftspeople. Includes extensive amounts of information on hard to find topics such as the pagan spiritual implications of specific design motifs and their relevance to seasonal rituals. Artists would find that these motifs, while traditional to textiles, would translate nicely to number of mediums. Kelly discusses at length several Slavic goddesses rarely (if ever) mentioned by books considered to be in the "canon" of mythology. One can more easily find literature on gods such as Perun, and so it is nice to finally see more attention given to the "divine feminine" of the Slavs.

Remnants of ancient goddess beliefs were very much a part of nineteenth century Eastern European folk culture. Even up to the twentieth century, Eastern European women supervised rituals in honor of the goddess, and carefully embroidered her image on their ritual cloths and clothing. Today, the strong, powerful goddess figure can still be seen on many examples of Eastern European folk textiles. The author introduces these figures and the folk life from which they sprang, explains changes in the goddess motif and its meaning, and unfolds for us rich examples from textile collections in Russia, Ukraine and Yugoslavia. She describes folk arts from Romania and Poland and relates her conversations with folk artists in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Her story ends in the United States with descriptions of public and private textile collections which contain goddess embroideries. Kelly weaves a tale of her search for the goddess Berehinia and her research on why goddess embroideries exist in Eastern Europe.

"Mary Kelly's great contribution is to have brought artist's skills... to have made us all "see" the goddess..." -- Dianne Farrell in SIGNS, Autumn, 1991
About the Author
For more than 20 years, artist and professor Mary B. Kelly has traveled to the Eastern European area; documenting techniques of folk embroidery and weaving, and researching the design origins of their motifs. A graduate of Rhode Island School of Design and Syracuse University, Kelly has received numerous grants, has written articles for textile magazines, lectured on folk textiles and written books on Eastern and Central European folk embroidery.