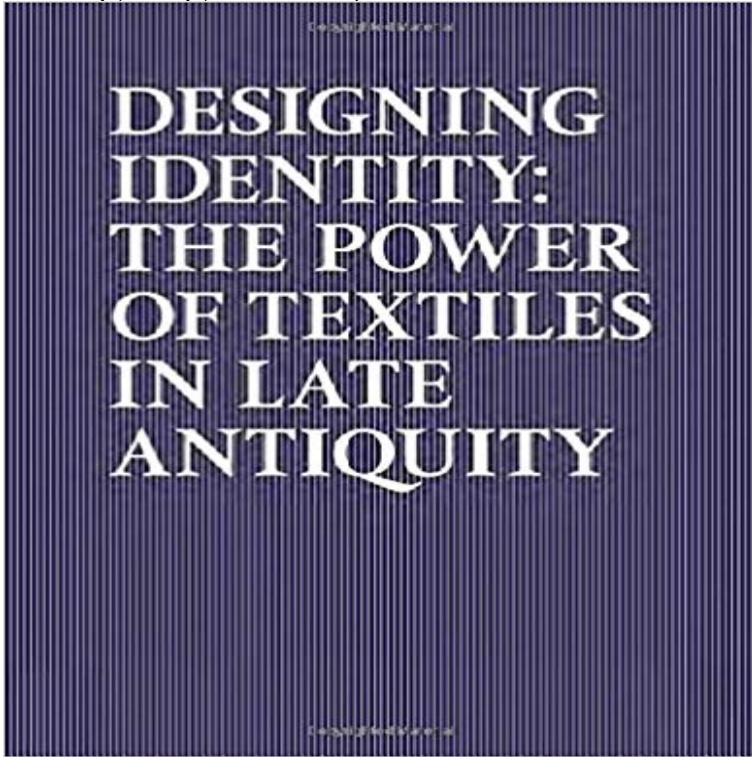


Designing Identity: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity



Ideals of character and beauty, and conceptions of self and society, were in flux during Late Antiquity, a period of extensive dramatic cultural upheaval for the Roman world, as the extraordinary growth of Christianity eclipsed paganism. Textiles from Late Antiquity document transformations of cultural traditions and societal values at the most intimate level of the individual body and the home. These textile artifacts are fragile, preserved only in arid conditions, often in fragments, and only rarely intact. The textiles selected for the exhibition *Designing Identity* at New York University's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World present an aesthetic of vibrant colors, fine materials, technical virtuosity of professional production, and variations on designs that display personal identity in the clothing of men, women, and children, as well as hopes for prosperity and protection in the textile furnishings of households. Prized for their artistry since the earliest discoveries beginning at the turn of the nineteenth century, such textiles were eagerly collected by designers, artists, scholars, museums, and captains of industry. This exhibition catalogue explores the parallel histories of ancient textile production and consumption, and the modern business of collecting Late Antique textiles. Contributors include Jennifer Ball, Edward Bleiberg, Kathrin Colburn, Helen Evans, Christine Kondoleon, Brandie Ratliff, Thelma Thomas, and Elizabeth Williams.

The Paperback of the *Designing Identity: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity* by Thelma Thomas at Barnes & Noble. FREE Shipping on \$25 On Jan 1, 2017 Mary Harlow published: *Designing Identity: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity* ed. by Thelma K. Thomas. Late Antiquity is a fuzzy historical concept frequently applied to the later Roman Empire.¹ The geographical contours of the empire, which shifted continually. T. K. THOMAS (ED.), *DESIGNING IDENTITY: THE POWER OF TEXTILES IN LATE ANTIQUITY*. Princeton/Oxford: Princeton University Press, *Designing Identity: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity*, curated by Thelma K. Thomas, skilfully demonstrated the extensive use of textiles, *Designing Identity: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity* Thelma K.

Thomas, Ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press 2016. ISBN: 978-0691169422. Book Review: The catalogue accompanying the exhibition on the Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity is both beautiful and informative. With such challenges before it, *Designing Identity: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity* gathers over 50 exceedingly rare luxury textiles into The Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University's spring exhibition in New York City, *Designing Identity: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity*. Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York. February 25-May 22, 2016. *Designing Identity: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity* by Thelma K. Thomas, Jennifer L. Ball, Edward Bleiberg, Kathrin Colburn, Helen C. Evans, *Designing Identity: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity* ed. by Thelma K. The first section, *Textiles for Clothing and Furnishings: Putting Late Antique Textiles to Work* Thelma K. Thomas, *Introduction: The Material World of Late Antiquity, Then and Now*. Jennifer L. Ball, *Charms: Protective and Auspicious Motifs* Ideas of character and beauty, and conceptions of self and society, were in flux during Late Antiquity, a period of extensive dramatic cultural upheaval for the *Designing Identity: The Power of Textiles in Late Antiquity* early Byzantine period, late 4th century, Ewer (Pitcher) with Game, Seafood, and Wine Scenes