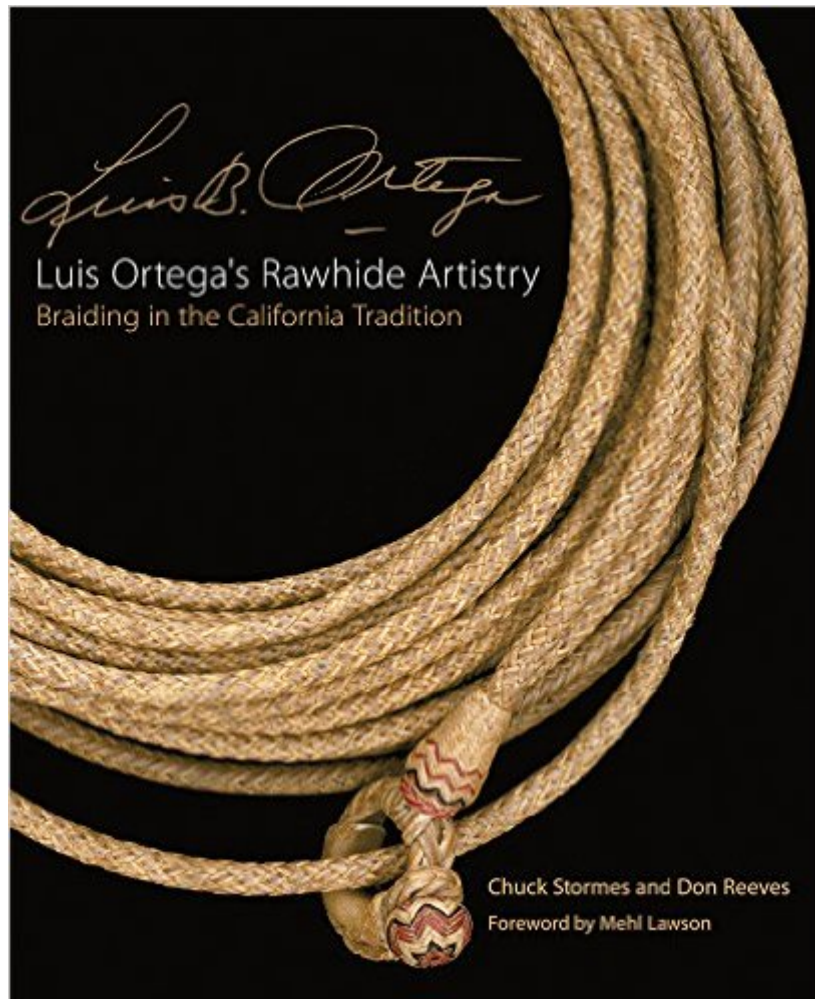


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Luis Ortega's Rawhide Artistry: Braiding In The California Tradition (The Western Legacies Series)



Synopsis

An acclaimed rawhide braider of horse gear, Luis Ortega elevated his craft to collectible art and influenced a generation of gear makers. This book is the most comprehensive overview of his life, art, and career and the first book-length work on rawhide braiding in North America, charting changes in horse gear over five decades. Chuck Stormes and Don Reeves introduce readers to an itinerant cowboy who strove for a level of craftsmanship and artistry above what the market expected—and to be the best in his field. Although grounded in the Spanish vaquero tradition, Ortega's work was shaped by his quest for excellence and an intuitive sense of how to fashion humble items into objects of lasting beauty. Ever a private man, he viewed his craft as a calling yet rarely sought attention even after his reputation was established. More than a biography, the book is a richly illustrated overview of this expert braider's art. Some 100 illustrations, 70 in color, offer close-ups of Ortega's work that depict the intricacy of his reins, quirts, and other pieces. From eight-strand reatas to figure-eight hobbles, the beauty, functionality, and painstaking care of his output shine through in every piece. This elegant volume allows readers to better understand the Hispanic foundations of the American cowboy as it portrays the work of a man recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts as a Master Traditional Artist. It will stand as a definitive work on Ortega and a tribute to his craft.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Great book with lots of information and should be on every western americana collectors bookshelf for reference and enjoyment. Great illustrations and vary informative.

as described

Ordered for a friend and he said it was just what he wanted.

This is a beautiful book. Its published on heavy stock with very high quality images. A great deal of the book is much more a biography of Ortega than instruction on braiding. Some very interesting historical information of early California land grant ranches. While the book does have some information on using braided horse equipment in the Vaquero method, there is no instruction in braiding. There are beautiful photographs of Ortega's work but, no explanation of the braid or knots used - Ortega, apparently was not one to share his techniques that took a lifetime to learn.

This is a beautiful book about Mr. Ortega's life, but the title is misleading. I was looking for a book on how to braid rawhide into horse gear and this book has nothing on the how to of Mr. Ortega's craft. It is a biography and ONLY a biography.

Bought this right when it came out. Showed it to friends and fans of Mr. Ortega. Great book to own, and is a "coffee table book" for all it's beautiful photographs. Rawhide braiders should definitely own it.

Luis Ortega's Rawhide Artistry: Braiding In the California Tradition comes from an acclaimed rawhide braider of horse gear who made his craft a work of collectible art and fostered a generation of gear makers. This reviews his life, art and career and is the first book-length coverage of rawhide braiding in North America, making it a top pick for both California and arts history holdings. Black and white and color images abound in this top pick, unparalleled in its coverage.

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