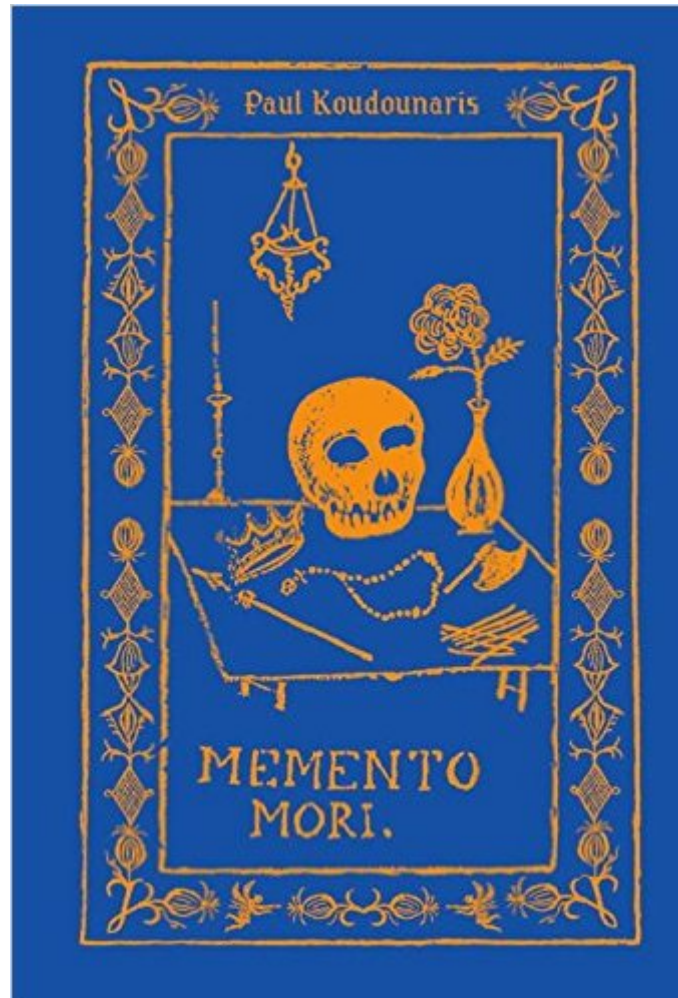


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# Memento Mori: The Dead Among Us



## Synopsis

The astonishing story of how the dead live on in memorials and traditions across the globe, from Ethiopia and Nepal to Cambodia and Rwanda, told through arresting images and captivating narration. Death is universal, but the human response to death varies widely. In Western society, death is usually medicalized and taboo, and kept apart from the world of the living, while in much of the rest of the world, and for much of human history, death has commonly been far more integrated into people's daily existence, and human remains are as much a reminder of life, *memento vitae*, as of death, *memento mori*. Through photos taken at more than 250 sites in thirty countries over a decade, Paul Koudounaris has captured death around the world. From Bolivia's "festival of the little pug-nosed ones," where skulls are festooned with flowers and given cigarettes to smoke and beanie hats to protect them from the weather to Indonesian families who dress mummies and include them in their household routines; from naturally preserved Buddhist monks and memorials to genocide in Rwanda and Cambodia to the dramatic climax of Europe's great ossuaries, *Memento Mori* defies taboo to demonstrate how the dead continue to be present in the lives of people everywhere. 500+ color illustrations

## Book Information

Hardcover: 208 pages

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 1 x 13.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #139,315 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Conceptual](#) #135 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Photojournalism & Essays > Photo Essays](#) #151 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Travel](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is my third book by Paul Koudounaris, and he does not disappoint (as long as you're into mummies, skeletons, burial customs, etc.). So many fascinating insights into cultures that are foreign to me; fantastic pictures; I can't find anything I don't like about this book.

At first I was a bit put off by the rather bland looking cover, thinking this may be just a knock-off to keep the money coming. I was very happily incorrect - the book itself is absolutely gorgeous, with a shiny, satin-like cloth cover printed with gold foil lettering. This addition to Mr. Koudounaris' amazing previous offerings is, believe me, BETTER and more morbidly gorgeous than his other works. Don't hesitate to purchase this amazing photographic journey into the world of death's memorials, with a great deal of interesting and informative text to accompany the stunning pictures. Plus, the entire concept is treated with dignity and utmost respect - no gore or dismal, bleak photos of abandoned cemeteries. A truly breathtaking walk through histories attempts to memorialize the otherwise forgotten dead..."As You Are, They Were. As They Are, You Will Be."

Coffee Table Book? Scholarly, Textbook? Amazingly it can be BOTH!Koudounaris has this subject so well showcased in his 3rd book. Very VERY nice. Aesthetically, the cover is a very exquisite blue shiny fabric - silk like. He has such a great way of photographing the subjects. Disarmingly beautiful and respectful of the subjects. He obviously knows the subject matter and history, has done impeccable research. Kudos Mr. K.

This is a beautiful book filled with colorful and interesting photos of how several different cultures treat and view their dead - or better, display their dead. It could best be described as a coffee table book due to its size (just over 13" tall) so it doesn't stand upright on a bookshelf very nicely unless your shelves are highly spaced apart. The photos and the stories/information contained within do make this book a real treasure to read, look at and want to explore more.

I picked this up on a whim after Caitlin Doughty showed it on her 'Ask a Mortician' channel. I will say I'm very happy, and quite impressed. I love unique coffee table books. This goes great along side my Codex Seraphinianus.

This book is impressive. Just like the other two titles of Koudounaris in the same area, the photographs displayed are breath taking. This book is larger in trimming dimensions than previous titles, however, there is less word count on this one. I believe images have a main role on this title, and they serve the propose.I found a great interest in relating the European traditions previously displayed to similar practices in other parts of the globe. This book is beautiful, design was right on point and the visuals aspects are just one of a kind. I am still intested in learning more about the

topic.

Gorgeous photography and interesting text. Clearly the author has a passion for the subject matter and it is evident in the spectacular photographs and text he has included in this volume. Plus, the cover has a great look and interesting texture and the pages are printed on quality paper - perhaps to increase its "coffee-table" appeal?

This is an amazing book, and a wonderful conversation starter. The pages are brimming with beautiful images â “ almost to the point that it's overwhelming. Everyone is intrigued by it, and I never get tired of reading/leafing through it. Highly recommended!

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