

6 Sumptuous Gift Books to Splurge on This Summer

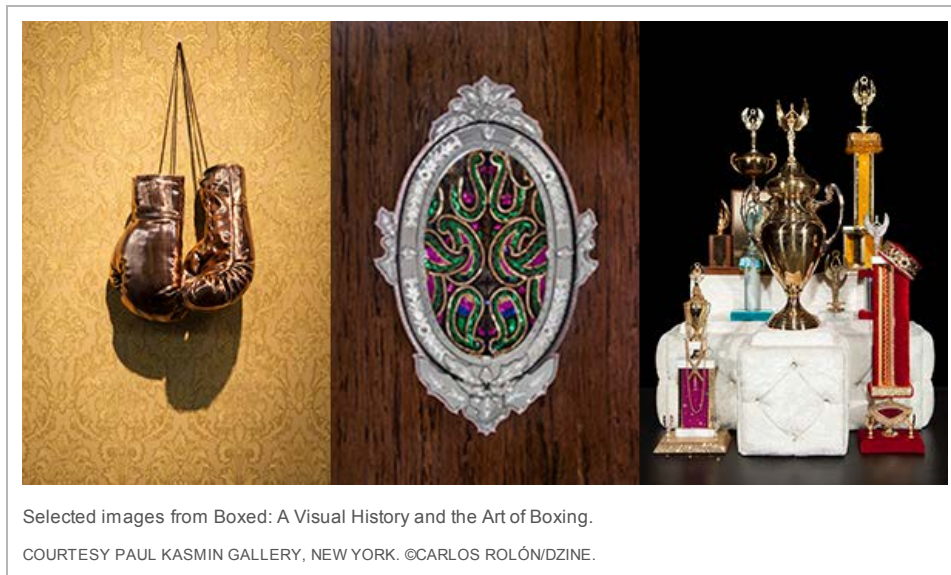
BY Stephanie Strasnick POSTED 06/17/14

Stunning, silk-wrapped, and limited-edition volumes from Ai Weiwei, Maurizio Cattelan, and more

Boxed: A Visual History and the Art of Boxing

Edited and with text by Carlos Dzine Rolón; Text by Franklin Sirmans

Damiani/Paul Kasmin Gallery, \$60



Carlos “Dzine” Rolón assembled this stunning and complex book as an homage to his father, whose love of boxing profoundly influenced the artist. The result is a compendium of texts and images that constitute a colorful history of the sport and the many artists it has inspired. Sirmans and Rolón take readers from the Fertile Crescent, where intertwined boxing figures were present in terracotta scenes and wall paintings as early as 3000 BC, to the gritty boxing clubs seen in George Bellows’s early-20th-century paintings, to the ringside seats of contemporary matches with hyper-realistic paintings by Taner Ceylan and action photographs by Cheryl Dunn.

Culminating in images of Dzine’s flamboyantly gilded and bedazzled interpretations of boxing paraphernalia, the book demonstrates that boxing is not only a sport that draws on our collective fascination with violence and “gladiatorial entertainment,” as Sirmans writes in his introduction, but a tradition rooted in pageantry, costume, and beauty.