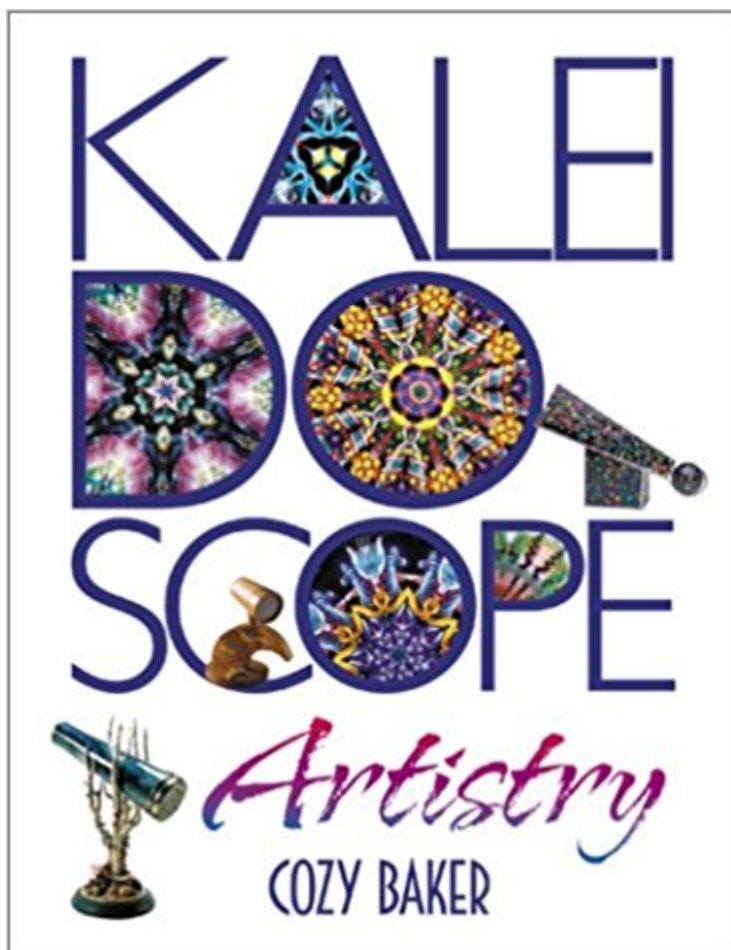


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# Kaleidoscope Artistry



## **Synopsis**

Over 300 colour photographs of fabulous kaleidoscopes, with profiles of dozens of the world's top scope artists and designers.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 144 pages

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## **Customer Reviews**

A perennial favorite among optical toys for almost 200 years, the kaleidoscope has recently entered the realm of therapeutic stress reducers. Baker, the author of several books on kaleidoscopes, discusses this aspect of kaleidoscope viewing along with her survey of the work of contemporary kaleidoscope artists. Short biographical sketches and photographs of each artist's work provide a fascinating view of a wonderful variety of shapes and themes that go far beyond the familiar rotating tube with glass chips. There are no instructions for making kaleidoscopes, such as those found in Thomas Boswell's *The Kaleidoscope Book*, but this is an appealing and unusual selection for art and collectibles collections. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Cozy Baker is the "First Lady of Kaleidoscopes," A world renowned authority, she has written 6 books on the subject.

Leaving politics aside, this book is a lushly illustrated book on contemporary Kaleidoscopes and Kaleidoscope Artists. The illustrations are rich and aewsome, and are of both the outside and inside images of many kaleidoscopes. I'm not aware of a better book in print for kaleidoscope enthusiasts

and all interested in the art of Kaleidoscope making. To be complete, combine this book in your library with other of Ms. Baker's books--especially Kaleidoscope Renaissance. Kaleidoscope Artistry primarily concentrates on more recent works by many scope makers, and blends well with the older scope info from her previous book. Now, to address some complaints by other reviewers: This book is not, and does not try to be, an all inclusive encyclopedia of all active scope makers. Nor is it a philanthropic work of charity. Of course Ms Baker plans on making money from this book--just like John Grisham and Danielle Steele. Ms. Baker heads the Brewster Society, her private business. Like it or not, this society is the closest thing scopemakers have to a guild for their art. You may not agree with the society, but as of yet, there is not another organization which represents artists and enthusiasts alike. If Ms. Baker's distractors dislike the society so much, perhaps they should form their own group and write their own book. It is unfortunate that such issues creep into these reviews. This is indeed a wonderful book that will grace anybody's library!

Beautiful book in perfect condition... the pictures of kaleidoscopes are awe inspiring and the genesis of their place in our art world is as interesting as the artisans who create them.

Beautiful pictures. I loved seeing the credit given to various current artists.

Just leafed thru but can hardly waite to really read, full of great pictures & history of kaleidoscopes. Amazing pictures

Until I picked up Cozy Baker's "Kaleidoscope Artistry" and a previous book of hers, "Kaleidoscopes, Wonders of Wonder", I thought of kaleidoscopes as something that had delighted me as a child; a plaything, a delectable rainbow of patterns, nothing more. A few short moments spent leafing through the pages of "Artistry" shifted my thinking on this subject forever. I am dazzled by the artistry, the beauty, of the kaleidoscopes and artists featured in this book. It was a complete revelation to me to find such exquisite works of art in what I had thought of as a plaything. The author profiles the work of a number of kaleidoscope artists who are currently designing and creating scopes, each with his or her unique perspective on a unique object with fascination for people of all ages. She makes no claim to be exhaustive in her profiling but focuses on some of those working in this century. It's one thing to have a passionate interest in something. It's quite another to be able to write compellingly about your passion. Ms. Baker meets this challenge with writing that sparkles like the patterns in the scopes she so obviously loves. She knows her subject

well, and explains something of the kaleidoscope's basic design before profiling the artists of her book. Of course writing of the artistry behind kaleidoscopes is one thing; portraying this quite another. What makes this book a complete delight are the stunning images of kaleidoscopes, and images of patterns from different scopes. Even without owning a kaleidoscope of my own, I feel as enchanted looking through "Kaleidoscope Artistry" as I do reading and reviewing gardening books. The photographs make the book worthy of description as a "coffee table book", as lovely as any book of art. Maybe kaleidoscopes won't win a war, or feed the hungry, or end the spread of disease. But they are compelling objects of sometimes breathtaking beauty, a portal for brief escapes of fantasy in these disturbing times. Ms. Baker quotes Michelangelo, who said, "Gazing on beautiful things acts on my soul, which thirsts for heavenly light." Gazing on the beautiful thing which is Ms. Baker's book acts upon my mind, which is delighted in such artistry. Well done to artists, writer and photographers.

I adore this book. I know others have disagreements with the author and her selections, but even the cover makes an apology to an artist that was falsely harmed. The tree kaleidoscope is a definite "I am sorry" if I ever saw one. The book is great and so are the pictures and stories. I had wished to see a few more of my favorites in here, but do not blame the author who put in a lot of work! I am very glad to see the direction the book has taken as well as the author to make the kaleidoscope world one of true love, understanding, friendship and caring. I do hope this path continues with the disenchanted artists returning to the "family" they were once a major part of. Thank you for this book and it pictures and the stories, but most of all thank you for showing that you hold no grudges toward anyone and that you are truly the "first lady of kaleidoscopes!" I hope that one artist sees your apology and welcomes the hand of friendship you so kindly extended!

Cozy Baker has done it again with another fantastic coffee table book that is the bible for anyone interested in the art, beauty and american craftsmanship of these magical instruments. What extraordinarily beautiful photos and images await kaleidoscope lovers of all ages and tastes within these pages! As a longtime collector and researcher of American crafts, I fully appreciate the knowledge, experience and life-long commitment of this distinguished author. Bravo! Bravo! Surely the shrill comments of 1 nutcase reviewing this book are lost in the beauty and magic of an artistic masterpiece. The top of the american craft professionals in this field like Karadimos, Knapp, Bennett, Mosier, Ross, Rioux and many others are also featured in this outstanding work. For those who are interested in the full spectrum af this wonderful art and science, this book is an invaluable

reference and source. Beautifully written with extraordinary images and photographs. Highly recommended to all.

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