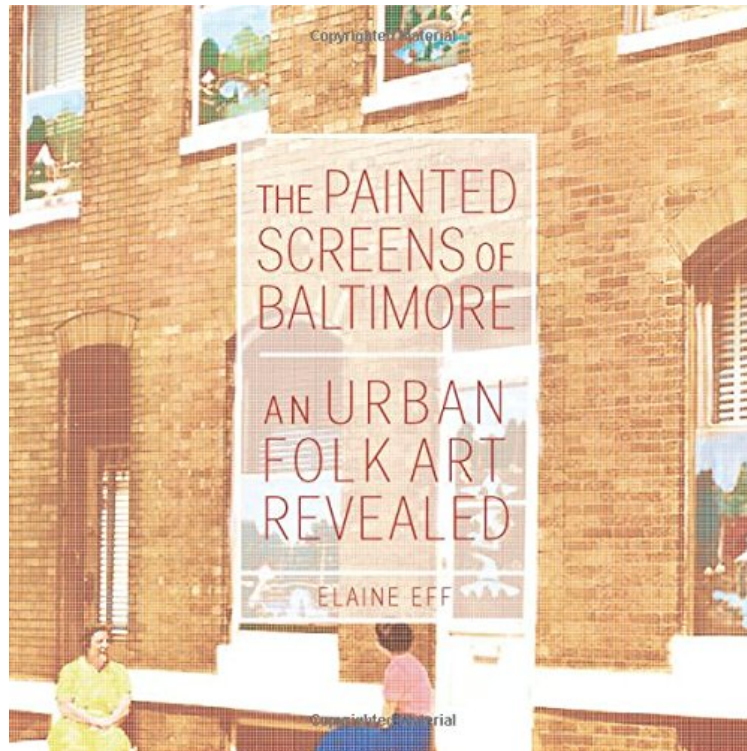


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## The Painted Screens of Baltimore: An Urban Folk Art Revealed (Folklore Studies in a Multicultural World Series)

*Elaine Eff*

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#565397 in Books 2013-10-23Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.32 x .98 x 10.391, 3.52 #File Name: 1617038911256 pages | File size: 43.Mb

**Elaine Eff : The Painted Screens of Baltimore: An Urban Folk Art Revealed (Folklore Studies in a Multicultural World Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Painted Screens of Baltimore: An Urban Folk Art Revealed (Folklore Studies in a Multicultural World Series):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. That's down the road!By S. Sanders"That's my uncle!" "My daughter lives up that street!" It's great to be so close to an art movement, looking from the painters' side, not the museum curators'. Going through a gallery, it's easy to forget what physical work goes in to most art, but you can't forget that blue-collar side of screen painting. This book is a good history/overview/guide/how-to of an art that ought to be more widespread. Why don't we paint gazebos to blend with their gardens? Put out specially painted screens for the Fourth of July?0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good read for a good city, BaltimoreBy a l brockOne of Baltimore's best reads for the native Baltimorean and others who enjoy reading happy history2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A different aspect of BaltimoreBy Fred SchildwachterThis book really struck home. As a kid, growing up on our house on Port Street, I was quite familiar with the Octavec's Store on Monument Street. Our family were friends with them and I was quite friendly with their son Richie. I also knew Johnny Eck. He lived across the alley from us on Milton Ave. I still remember the times when he would take us neighborhood kids for a ride in his

little race car shown on page 133. This book brought back a lot of memories.

Painted screens have long been synonymous in the popular imagination with the Baltimore row house. Picturesque, practical, and quirky, window and door screens adorned with scenic views simultaneously offer privacy and ventilation in crowded neighborhoods. As an urban folk art, painted screens flourished in Baltimore, though they did not originate there; precursors date to early eighteenth-century London. They were a fixture on fine homes and businesses in Europe and America throughout the Victorian era. But as the handmade screen yielded to industrial production, the whimsical artifact of the elite classes was suddenly transformed into an item for mass consumption. Historic examples are now a rarity, but in Baltimore the folk art is still very much alive. *The Painted Screens of Baltimore* takes a first look at this beloved icon of one major American city through the words and images of dozens of self-taught artists who trace their creations to the capable and unlikely brush of one Bohemian immigrant, William Oktavec. In 1913, this corner grocer began a family dynasty inspired generations of artists who continue his craft to this day. The book examines the roots of painted wire cloth, the ethnic communities where painted screens have been at home for a century, and the future of this art form.

An un-ironic (thank God) treasure-trove of amazingly researched information that elevates the most Balto-centric one-time row house kitsch to its proper place in art history. John Waters *The Painted Screens of Baltimore: An Urban Folk Art Revealed* is a stunningly beautiful book that traces the history of painted screens in Baltimore. Elaine Eff profiles three generations of screen painters and lovingly shows how these artists crafted a unique identity for their city. Eff's majestic portrait of a city, its people, and their art will forever stand as a model study for the fields of American art and folklore. William Ferris, author of *The Storied South: Voices of Writers and Artists From the Inside Flap* An exploration of a homegrown tradition of unexpected beauty and privacy About the Author Elaine Eff, Baltimore, Maryland, is the authority on painted screens. A curator and filmmaker, she has chronicled and conserved living culture as the folklorist for the city of Baltimore and the State of Maryland.