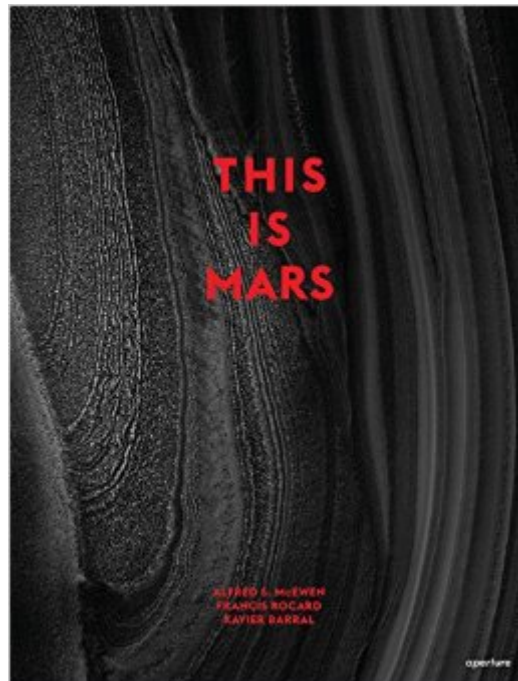


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# This Is Mars



## Synopsis

This *Is Mars* offers a previously unseen vision of the red planet. Located somewhere between art and science, the book brings together for the first time a series of panoramic images recently sent back by the U.S. observation satellite MRO (Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter). Since its arrival in orbit in 2006, MRO and its HiRISE telescope have been mapping Mars's surface in a series of exceptionally detailed images that reveal all the beauty of this legendary planet. Conceived as a visual atlas, the book takes the reader on a fantastic voyage—plummeting into the breathtaking depths of the Valles Marineris canyons; floating over the black dunes of Noachis Terra; and soaring to the highest peak in our solar system, the Olympus Mons volcano. The search for traces of water also uncovers vast stretches of carbonic ice at the planet's poles. Seamlessly compiled by French publisher, designer and editor Xavier Barral, these extraordinary images are accompanied by an introduction by research scientist Alfred S. McEwen, principle investigator on the HiRISE telescope; an essay by astrophysicist Francis Rocard, who explains the story of Mars's origins and its evolution; and a timeline by geophysicist Nicolas Mangold, who unveils the geological secrets of this fascinating planet.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (18 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this as a Christmas present for my NASA-loving Dad. He's always been into the whole space scene ever since seeing the lunar landing as a kid. He's always been really difficult to shop for, so imagine how excited I was when I found this book. A word of caution, however, this isn't a small book. Weighing in at about 6 pounds, you could probably throw four legs on this bad boy and

use it as a coffee table (if the publishers like this idea, feel free to contact me). Prime shipping for this book was a fantastic surprise. This isn't a glorified picture-book, no sir, this book comes with a description of the satellite and the project, totaling about a third of this book, followed by a bunch of high-res pictures, and then a section with smaller versions of the pictures accompanied with descriptions. As soon as my dad opened this, he sat down, and read the entire thing. This book is well worth the price tag.

I saw this at a book store in bad condition for over \$100 so I bought on . I haven't yet looked at every photographâ but this is with out a doubt the most beautiful collection of images I've ever seen. The quality is great, design is greatâ but simply the huge variety of landscapes and textures without any captions or explanations leads the mind to grand thoughts of what happened (or what happens) on this planet. I can't believe I just wrote this reviewâ because I still feel speechless (and I've had it for a week). One of my most prized possessions.

This book is really amazing: this is very high definition images from Mars surface as seen by the HiRISE camera of Mars Reconnaissance orbiter. These Black & White images give a new vision of this myterious planet. Never seen before, the images transmit a dramatic vision of Mars.

Stunning, beautiful, amazing. There is nothing to compare to it. Also a fine and lovely binding, beautiful paper. It's a pleasure to own and hold and touch something so fine. Three times the asking price would have been fair.

If you can accept that every image has been unsharp-masked and then contrast-enhanced to the extreme, then this book is absolutely beautiful. If you are a Mars purist, then you might start to take offense at the fact that these images no longer represent the actual surface of the planet. That said, this book really is stunningly beautiful. The images are sharp and of very high quality, and the landscapes are varied and all uniquely interesting. Any fan of geology should love this book.

This Is Mars is incredibly beautiful and printed on such quality paper it's hard to believe it's really in your own possession. Highly recommended for photographers who enjoy rich, abstract, textural art, or for those simply fascinated by natural phenomena that cannot be found here on our own planet.

There are quite a few good Mars books on the market these days, but with "This Is Mars" by Al

McEwen et al, I have fallen in love with the planet all over again. This is one of those rare books that you can really get lost in. Photos have been beautifully processed to show the kinds of detail I look for when contemplating a hike in the Rocky Mountains or Moab. From dunes to subtle outflow channels, from soaring mountaintops to majestic buttes, the huge book is absolutely gorgeous. Many of the images border on abstract art. It's not the kind of book you'd want in your luggage, but that's just fine: its large format enables the viewer to delve into Mars as you never have before. Highly recommended.

Magnificent images. The black and white printing is excellent. Its big size makes you feel in a strange world that looks as a product of imagination, but you know it is not a fantasy, these are real places.

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