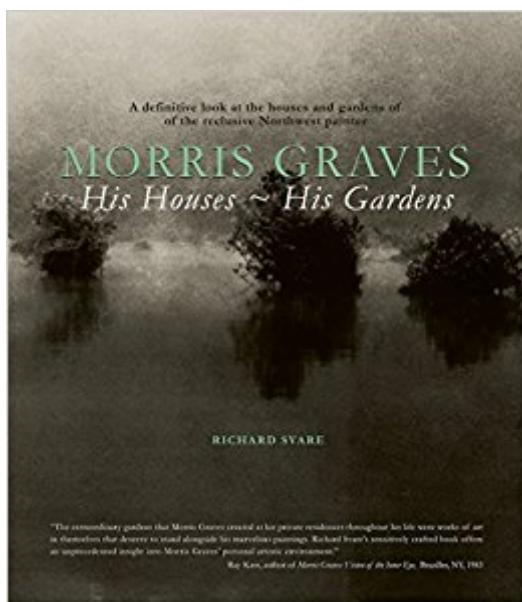


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# Morris Graves: His Houses, His Gardens



## Synopsis

The long-awaited Morris Graves: His Houses, His Gardens tells the story of the homes of Morris Graves, a leading figure in Northwest Art and one of the most important American artists of the twentieth century. This high-quality book with beautiful duotone photographs concerns itself with four locations—The Rock, Carel Aden, Woodtown Manor, and The Lake. Author, photographer, and close Graves friend Richard Svare makes clear that the world Morris Graves inhabited physically was the world he experienced transcendentally. Morris Graves soared from obscurity to fame in 1942, when thirty of his works appeared in New York's Museum of Modern Art's exhibition "Americans 1942: 18 Artists from Nine States." A review in ARTnews magazine praised his paintings as the "sensation of the show." As a charismatic figure who traveled extensively throughout Europe and Asia, Graves developed friendships with artists like John Cage and Merce Cunningham, and hobnobbed with celebrities and royalty. Throughout his career, Graves's work is represented in many public and private collections, including The Museum of Modern Art and Whitney Museum, Washington's Phillips Collection, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Partly because he chose to live in the Northwest, Graves was often said to be reclusive. Many of his early paintings were created at "The Rock," a cabin he built for himself eighty-five miles north of Seattle. He built a home in Ireland and spent the last thirty-five years of his life in Northern California.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

RICHARD SVARE, born in 1930, studied classical voice in his youth. He met Morris Graves in the early 1950s and subsequently shared homes with Graves during the period of Carel Aden and Woodtown Manor. In the late 1960s, Svare moved to Stockholm, Sweden where he founded and directed the Scandinavian Theatre Company. In 1969 he moved to Corfu, Greece and cofounded the Corfu International Festival with Maestro Schippers. In 1976, he returned to the United States and worked as administrator for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in New York City. In 1979 he returned to Athens, where he became a resident of Greece and over the next two decades became a well-known actor, appearing in feature roles for Greek, British, French, and American film and television productions. In 1995 he returned to Seattle, Washington to work on his writing. Richard Svare died in 2004.

Morris Graves built 3 houses in the US and spent 7 years refurbishing a 4th in Ireland. He was the consummate designer, decorator and landscape gardener. He painted in order to support his building projects. I highly recommend this limited edition book designed by artist Galen Garwood. It was rejected by the publishers actor-author Richard Svare submitted the mss to in his lifetime. It was finally published after he died by Process Media in Port Townsend after a prolonged campaign to get it into print directed by Northwest art patron Merchant Pease. It's an elegant labor of love about a legendary 20th century American master painter remembered for his youthful pranksterism and his reclusive later life. He tramped around the world as a merchant seaman and knew everyone from Father Divine to the Queen of Sikkim to Vincent Price who promoted his work for Sears Roebuck. Graves once owned a levitating metronome. Where it is today is anyone's guess.

This account of Mr. Svare's, a dear friend of the artist, provides the reader with insights both bold and subtle into the mind and the social challenges of Morris Graves ...even to those who were privileged to know the artist personally. If one is an admirer of Morris's artwork, this perceptive book of his houses and gardens written by a close and sensitive friend would be helpful in allowing understanding of Mr. Graves and his artful life's journey.

This book rekindled my love for Morris Graves, as well as shed light on a different side to who he was as an artist, a thinker and a person. The book is affectionately written and has a ton of photographs of the artist and the spaces he inhabited and created that I had never seen before. If you like Morris Graves, I think this is an important book to own.

This book documents the wonderful places that Morris Graves built for himself. His houses are as beautiful as his painting and the story of these houses are also fascinating.

A beautifully conceived, written and photographed book. I loved learning about this aspect of Graves, whose paintings are so exquisite they deeply move the spirit. Of course he would be fussy about where and how he lived. His homes and gardens are quite interesting, as is their story. The first two are very close to me in northwest Washington State.

As a high school student/graduate in 1954, I personally worked in Mr. Graves garden's and on his home "Careladen". This book was a look back into Morris Grave's life as I remembered him. I found the book fantastic.

Very good

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